

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Weaver McCracken, associate director of the Department of Student Work, MBCB, delivers a challenge to the student summer missionaries during the Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Said McCracken to the 67 students, "Learn all you can, help all you can, serve all you can, and do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Bob Lee, who directs student work for Oklahoma Baptists, spoke twice during LTC. He is pictured chatting with Kimberly Dawn Hood, 1989-90 state BSU secretary. (Photos by Lesley Swilley, a student at Mississippi State)



Turning Point, a musical group from Itawamba Community College, sings during an LTC session.



Providing music leadership for LTC were Kevin Hand, pastor of Countryside Baptist Mission, Tickfaw, La., and Dennis Atwood, associate BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Student leaders train

By Tim Nicholas and Delise Teague

church planter in Pearl River County.

Causey asked the students for everything they have and everything they ever will be. Basing his message on Romans 12, Causey spoke of a living sacrifice belonging to God "just as much as if it had died," he said.

"You and I have been set aside for one thing and one thing only — that's for service of God," said Causey, who was one of the first 10 student summer missionaries who served from Mississippi.

Lee talked about God's plan for his people to have a "life of good works," he said, as noted in Ephesians 2. "God has already mapped out what he wants to do with our lives," he said.

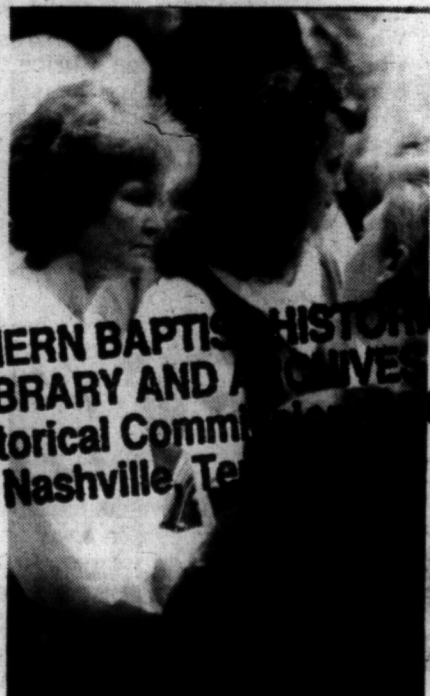
"We sell ourselves short," said Lee, "by not trusting the Word and allowing God to use us the way he wants to use us."

Dottie Williamson spoke of God's people being both salt and light, as in Matt. 5:13-16. "If you believe the story's worth telling, you've got to share it," she said.

Miss Williamson followed that question with another: "If you're going to take on the title, 'Christian,' don't you think you'd better act like Christ?"

During a commissioning service for the 67 student summer missionaries, whose expenses will be paid by fellow students who are raising \$100,000, the missionaries received towels, symbolizing service. The students also are sending 10 of their number to Russia for a short-term project renovating a church in Leningrad.

Tim Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB, and Delise Teague is a graduate student at Mississippi State.



Mississippi missionary Dottie Williamson talks with a student after Miss Williamson spoke during the commissioning of the 67 student summer missionaries.



Upward Journey, a music group from Mississippi Delta Community College, sings during LTC.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Sad new chapters

It seems that every day sad new chapters are being written into Southern Baptist Convention history. What a challenge they will present to those whose lot it will be to develop that history.

Most of the sadness, it seems, has been written by the presidents of the convention since the beginning of the revolution in 1979. They are in control of one extreme side of the conflict.

Now, however, has come statements of deep sadness from those of the other extreme, particularly from the area of the Southern Baptist Alliance. Perhaps the depth of sadness in this instance comes from the fact that many of those folks are close personal friends. The leaders of that group are in the process of establishing a seminary of their own and are talking about initiating other educational sites. There is concern among the group about gifts to the Foreign Mission Board. Some have ceased all Cooperative Program giving.

It's almost as if we are saying goodbye to our friends in the Southern Baptist Alliance. According to their statements, they don't know how much longer they can remain in the

Southern Baptist Convention.

There may be some who would say that we need one or the other of these extreme positions. But one has to wonder if we need either.

The Peace Committee was a very good idea that has been totally ignored except for the use of some of its statements as clubs to hit someone over the head. The Peace Committee called for all Southern Baptists to cease all political activity. And Southern Baptists in a convention voted for the Peace Committee report by a 95 percent majority. It doesn't make any difference that it was done at 10 o'clock at night and that the messengers had not seen the report until that day. It doesn't make any difference that the efforts to delay the vote were ruled out of order. The fact of the matter is that the vote was a 95 percent majority.

The call to cease political activity has been totally ignored. The two extremes have been as heavily involved as ever. The only ones who have not been involved are the 99.997 percent of Southern Baptists who do not go to conventions.

And therein lies the saddest fact of

all. Only a few Southern Baptists ever attend conventions. And yet those few have control of the denomination's destiny. Their efforts have brought only grief to the main body of Southern Baptists. Yet there is nothing that can be done about the situation.

Prior to the seventies and during the seventies, the group now in charge of the convention meetings saw things that they felt needed to be changed; but they could get no hearing. It finally occurred to them that the best way to accomplish their objectives would be to take over the convention meetings. Then they would be able to make any change that they wanted to. They accomplished that in 1979.

We don't need to go back to pre-1979 days. A sizeable group of Southern Baptists were being ignored. But that hasn't changed a great deal.

Wouldn't it be nice if we all decided that without any previous political activity we would show up at the conventions and just see what happened?

We would all lose some, and we would all win some. But we would all enjoy it a great deal more.

The Lord would enjoy it more also.



Kill a dead issue

Petition No. 2493 was a valid petition at one time. That was in 1975. It was denied by the Federal Communications Commission. Since that time it has been a dead issue, but its ghost keeps coming back to haunt the FCC. That agency is receiving millions of pieces of mail asking that a dead issue be killed.

The petition never did ask that all religious broadcasting be taken off the air. It asked that in the future no radio stations be granted licenses that intended to devote their efforts to Christian broadcasting.

It was not Madelyn Murray O'Hare who submitted the petition. Two men from California did that. It was turned down 15 years ago. Since then it has been a dead issue. Only the Postal Service has rejoiced. It has taken in about

\$200,000 each year selling stamps for the million or so pieces of mail that go to the FCC in protest. The FCC is tired of it all. That agency has had to employ additional help just to handle the mail relating to the petition.

Some of our tax money is being used to handle the backwash from a petition that was denied 15 years ago and never sought what has been claimed that it did. It is one of those amazing things as is the furor over the Proctor and Gamble symbol. It is claimed that the president of that company went on a television show and claimed to be a Satan worshipper. He is not and never did appear on the show. The company has had its symbol for more than 100 years.

It is strange.

Baptist Beliefs . . . Was Judas Christian?

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spoke of Judas Iscariot . . . for he it was who

should betray him." — John 6:70-71

Was Judas a Christian? The answer must be, "No." Note that Jesus said that "one of you is a devil," not was a devil. He was not one when Jesus chose him.

Why Jesus chose Judas will ever be a mystery. Probably he saw qualities in Judas which, if surrendered to him, would be beneficial in his work. But Judas never surrendered them. Apparently Judas thought Jesus was to establish an earthly kingdom, and he wanted a prominent place in it. His motives were self-centered from the beginning. In all likelihood, he started the effort to make Jesus a political-military Messiah (John 6:14-15). This explains why at this time Jesus called him a devil. He saw him beginning to become a tool of Satan in an effort to divert Jesus from the Suffering Ser-

respect and sympathy by sending more than three truckloads of flowers. A judge in Dallas who knew this man well was standing outside the church by an old Negro after the service. As the two of them watched the wreaths being loaded for transfer to the cemetery, the judge remarked, "Mr. surely does have lots of flowers, doesn't he?" The old Negro replied, "Yes sir; but, you know, he's been planting the seeds for those flowers a long time."

Christian, you are planting seeds as well. They should be the seeds of the Golden Rule.

Greg Potts is pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

(Continued on page 10)

Guest opinion . . .

The golden rule

By Greg Potts

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12 N.A.S.) We know this verse as "The Golden Rule."

Most of us learned this verse as children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. We were taught to treat others as we would want to be treated. Dr. Herschel Hobbs says, "These are 18 words which can change your life as a Christian from what you are into what Christ wants you to be."

As Christians, we should live by the Golden Rule. How are we to do it?

I. We should remember the Golden Rule.

We need to understand what it is not. It is not a substitute for the salvation of a lost man. Jesus was speaking to his followers in the Sermon on the Mount. He was instructing them on proper Christian conduct with other people. He did not intend for these words to be taken as a substitute for salvation. One can practice the Golden Rule his entire life and still fall short of heaven.

We need to understand what it is. The Golden Rule is a summary of proper Christian conduct with other people. We are to treat others as we would have them treat us.

II. We should respond to the Golden Rule.

The Golden Rule is somewhat similar to the Great Commission in that we have memorized it by heart but have not taken it to heart. The Christian is to practice the Golden

Rule and allow this principle to permeate all that we do as individuals.

Consider the ramifications of practicing the Golden Rule:

1) We would not be nearly as quick to judge others.

2) We would not repeat or start gossip about others.

3) We would not criticize others as quickly.

4) We would pray for others more frequently.

5) We would visit others more often.

6) We would take time to make friends and listen to others.

7) We would make a phone call or drop an encouraging note in the mail more often.

8) We would invite others over for a meal or for fellowship.

9) We would give more generously so others who have not heard about Jesus could.

Given some thought, the ramifications of the Golden Rule are immense. It affects our lives in every realm. As Christians, the Golden Rule should influence everything that we do. We should remember it and respond to it.

A young fellow applied for a job. He furnished references from his minister and Sunday School teacher. "These are good," said the interviewer, "but we'd like a letter from someone who knows you on weekdays, too!"

We need to respond to the Golden Rule and allow this basic Christian principle to influence our conduct throughout the week.

III. We will be rewarded for it.

Paul said in Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

I believe if we live our lives according to the Golden Rule, we will be rewarded for it in heaven and on earth. We are rewarded for it on earth by having a peace of mind about ourselves and our fellow man. We do not live with a guilty conscience. We do not avoid people because of some bitterness in our lives or some wrong done in the past.

When Samuel addressed Israel for the final time before Saul became their leader, he said to them, "Here I am; bear witness against me before the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it?" And they said, "You have not defrauded us, or oppressed us, or taken anything from any man's hand." (I Samuel 12:4-5 N.A.S.) What peace of mind Samuel must have enjoyed! I believe this is part of our reward for practicing the Golden Rule.

The Christian should remember that the Golden Rule is and what it is not. The Christian should respond to the Golden Rule and allow it to influence all that we do. The Christian needs to be assured that we will be rewarded for practicing the Golden Rule.

A wealthy and benevolent citizen of Dallas, Texas, had passed away and his friends sought to express their

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SBC pastors' conference to seek "God's presence"

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The 1990 meeting of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will focus on seeking God's presence, according to Tom Elliff, conference president.

"The theme — 'The Pathway to God's Presence' — will focus attention on the importance of ministering with that obvious sense of God's presence in our lives," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla.

Elliff said the theme comes from the account in Exodus chapters 32 and 33 when Moses was interceding for the people and told God that if God's presence did not go with the people, he did not want to go.

"The whole issue of living in the presence of God, living with God and having him manifested in your life is the theme of this year's Pastors' Conference," Elliff said.

The Pastors' Conference will be June 10-11 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, in advance of the 1990 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 12-14, also in the Superdome. It is one of more than a dozen meetings scheduled in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC.

Elliff said the officers of the Pastors' Conference planned the two days of meetings to include "a broad spectrum of SBC pastors, evangelists, missionaries, educators, and others."

"I think we have been very inclusive in our planning," said Elliff, referring to a movement to make the conser-

vative movement within the convention more inclusive. "The program was prepared before the statements about inclusiveness were made, but we have included a broad spectrum."

Three former presidents of the SBC are scheduled to address the conference: Bailey Smith, an evangelist from Atlanta who formerly was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn.; and Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta.

Also on the program are two men who have been mentioned as possible candidates for office: Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church of Tucker, Ga., who will be nominated as 1991 president of the Pastors' Conference, and Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, who will be the "conservative" candidate for president of the SBC.

"I invited Morris (Chapman) because he is a good friend and a good brother," said Elliff. "I am delighted he is going to be nominated, but we tried to put people on the program who would communicate effectively."

"There is not any way in the world that people will not try to make some political statement out of the program, but my concern was that the Lord's Word would be preached, and that the speakers would minister effectively to the pastors and others who will be there."

"We did not sit down and plan this program with any kind of agenda in

mind other than that we wanted everybody who attended to be ministered. That was our burning desire. I think it would have been more political to try to maneuver the program to make a political statement rather than just putting together a program of men who could deliver the goods."

Others scheduled to address the conference include pastors Stan Coffey of San Jacinto Church of Amarillo, Texas; Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church of Fayetteville, Ga.; O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College of Dallas, also will speak, as will Manley Beasley, an evangelist from Euless, Texas.

Avery Willis, a former foreign missionary now working in discipleship training at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, also will speak. Willis is the author of the MasterLife program. Another denominational employee, Ron Boswell, director of the Volunteers in Mission department of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., will give a testimony.

In addition to Elliff, officers of the 1990 Pastors' Conference are Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz., vice president; and Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., secretary-treasurer.

Religious Liberty Council supports Joint Committee

DALLAS (BP) — Citing an "attack" on church-state separation, soul liberty and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Abner McCall announced formation of the Religious Liberty Council during an April 6 press conference in Dallas.

McCall, president emeritus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, will be co-president of the council, along with Grady Cothen of Coral Springs, Fla., and Gardner Taylor of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The 215-member council is "a national body to undergird all forms of support needed to continue the vital work and witness of the Baptist Joint Committee," according to its printed statement of purpose.

The council will work with the BJC to "develop, cultivate, and nurture Baptists in an understanding of religious freedom and its corollary, the separation of church and state," and it will seek "to build a constituency for the concept of a free church in a free state" through educational means.

"Adequate funding for the Baptist Joint Committee is one of the purposes of the Religious Liberty Council," according to the statement of purpose.

The BJC represents nine Baptist denominations — including the Southern Baptist Convention — in the nation's capital on issues regarding

religious liberty and church-state separation. At their annual meeting in New Orleans in June, Southern Baptists will vote on a proposed 87.24 percent reduction in Southern Baptist contributions to the BJC.

"We will try at least to maintain the current level of appropriations to the Baptist Joint Committee at the Southern Baptist Convention. If not there, then at the state conventions. If not there, then from local churches," McCall said.

In addition to seeking "adequate endowment for the Baptist Joint Committee to guarantee its continued ministry," members of the council also will be called upon to write and speak on behalf of the BJC.

"The RLC will function in conjunction with the elected board as a mediating structure between the many and diverse Baptist publics and the always small staff of the Baptist Joint Committee," according to the council's statement of purpose.

"It will provide a sympathetic commitment to historic Baptist principles and expand the contacts, influence, and stature of the Baptist Joint Committee. The RLC will link the committee and its larger support base."

"In that context, the RLC will be a sounding board. It will afford a breadth and depth of expertise that would never be possible with a

(Continued on page 12)

Dab of ketchup leads to conversion

ORLEANS, France — Getting a dab of ketchup on some French fries led to the conversion of a French woman, in a manner of speaking. Because Southern Baptist missionary Debbie Cox stopped to get ketchup in a crowded cafeteria, while some other missionaries went on to their table, she found herself seated beside a French woman.

The missionaries were attending a workshop in Continuous Witness Training, an evangelism program used in many parts of the world. The woman was interested in why the missionaries were there. "I saw she was open, so I just shared the CWT presentation with her," Cox said.

Several other diners also heard the presentation. After the discussion, the two went to the woman's car, where she prayed to receive Christ as her personal Savior. "I had prayed two days about getting results in my witnessing. But I didn't expect to find someone in a cafeteria," Cox said.

WMU meeting to focus on 'Hearts of One Accord'

By Susan Todd

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien will give her first executive board report during the WMU annual meeting June 10-11 in New Orleans.

Because the event will be O'Brien's first annual meeting since taking office last September, an informal introduction time has been scheduled at the beginning of the first session. Meeting participants can greet O'Brien beginning at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 10, at the entrance of the New Orleans Convention Center, site of the annual meeting.

Sunday sessions will begin at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m.

"Hearts of One Accord" will be the focus of the annual meeting. The heartbeat of missions will be illustrated through special music, theme interpretations, and missionary testimonies, program planners said.

Messages will be brought by Ruth

Tucker on Sunday evening, Monte Clendinning on Monday afternoon, and Denton Lotz on Monday evening. Tucker is a visiting professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., and a professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. Clendinning is conference coordinator of the World Mission and Evangelism Center at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Lotz is general secretary/treasurer of the Baptist World Alliance.

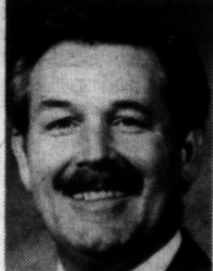
Joann Goatcher, a medical consultant with the Foreign Mission Board, will lead theme interpretations throughout the meeting.

Each of the five sessions will feature presentations by Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries. Missionary speakers will include Deborah Moore, Liberia; Karen Dewitt, Fort Worth; Karen Sue Gross, Hope, Ark.; Pamela Mungo, New England; Gwendolyn Williams,

(Continued on page 4)

FMB names Vassar associate area director

Thomas E. Vassar Jr. has been named the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director for Spanish South America.



Vassar

Vassar, a Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela for 13 years, joined the board's staff in Richmond, Va., April 9.

He succeeds Betty Law, who was elected vice president for the Americas in February.

Since July 1988, he has been administrator of the Venezuela Baptist Mission and liaison with the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela in Caracas.

He and his wife, the former Margaret Mathis, are from Manning, S.C. Before the Vassars were appointed as missionaries, he was a Mississippi Baptist pastor, at Mount Vernon and Amite River churches at Liberty. (FMB) PHOTO



Recruiting Blacks for missions

Houston pastor George May (center) will soon visit churches in the southern United States to encourage more Blacks to join the Southern Baptists' foreign mission force. May, pastor of South Park Baptist Church in Houston, will represent the Foreign Mission Board in stressing the need for a larger presence of black missionaries in the total foreign missionary force. May is seen with Victor Davis (right), director of the Foreign Mission Board's black church relations office, and Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. Davis said black Southern Baptist churches are showing a greater interest in foreign missions in recent years. Since 1987, black involvement in overseas volunteer mission projects has quadrupled. (FMB) PHOTO

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference

June 10-11, 1990

Louisiana Superdome

Theme: "The Pathway to God's Presence"

Sunday, June 10

Tom Elliff, presiding; Don McMinn, Music

6:00 Music — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Texas

6:20 Welcome — Tom Elliff, president, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; pastor, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.
Prayer — Ron Hart, first vice president, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; pastor, First Southern Church, Tucson, Ariz.

6:25 Music — Congregational singing; combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Texas

6:35 Message — Manley Beasley, evangelist, Euless, Texas

7:05 Music — Congregational singing; combined choirs and orchestra of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Tex.; soloist, Mike Speck

7:20 Message — Bailey Smith, evangelist, Atlanta

7:50 Music — Congregational singing

8:00 Prayer and Offering — Robert Holmes, secretary-treasurer, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; pastor, First Southern Church, Henderson, Nev.
Music — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Tex.

8:20 Message — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.
Benediction — Johnny Nantz, pastor, Spring Valley Church, Las Vegas, Nev.

Monday, June 11

Ron Hart, presiding; Mike Speck, music evangelist

8:30 Music — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Austin, Texas

8:50 Prayer — Gary Marquez, pastor, North Swan Church, Tucson, Ariz.
Music — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Baptist Church, Austin, Tex.

9:00 Message — Nelson Price, pastor, Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.

9:30 Music — Congregation and choirs

9:40 Message — Stan Coffey, pastor, San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, Texas

10:10 Special Broadman Press Presentation
Offertory Prayer — David Meacham, director of missions, Southern Nevada Association, Las Vegas, Nev.
Music — Ron and Patricia Owens, music evangelists, Fort Worth, Texas

10:30 Message — Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor, New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.

11:00 Music — Congregational singing; Mike and Faye Speck, music evangelists, Tulsa, Okla.

11:10 Message — Paige Patterson, president, Criswell College, Dallas
Benediction — Vancil Gibson, pastor, Nellis Baptist Church, North Las Vegas, Nev.

Tom Elliff, presiding; Michael Burt, music

1:15 Music — Sanctuary choir of Champion Forest Church, Houston; Allen Family, music evangelists, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.;
Congregational singing
Prayer — Paul Daniel, pastor, First Church, North Little Rock, Ark.

1:35 Message — Avery Willis, former missionary, author, Discipleship Training Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

2:05 Music — Congregational singing; Gary McSpadden, music evangelist, Nashville

2:25 Message — Richard Lee, pastor Rehoboth Church, Atlanta

2:55 Offertory Prayer — Ed Litton, pastor, Mountain View Church, Tucson, Ariz.

3:05 Music — Sanctuary choir, Champion Forest Church, Houston

3:20 Election of Officers

3:25 Music — Music/Drama "Thank You"

Message — O.S. Hawkins, pastor, First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

3:55 Music — Congregational singing; Gary McSpadden

4:15 Message — John Bisagno, pastor, First Church, Houston
Benediction — Frank Minton, pastor, First Church, Anchorage, Alaska

Tom Elliff, presiding; Don McMinn, music

6:15 Music — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Tex.; Luke Garrett, music evangelist, Dallas

6:50 Testimony — Ron Boswell, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

7:05 Prayer — Michael Rochelle, pastor, West Oakley Church, Las Vegas, Nev.

7:30 Message — John McArthur, pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, Calif.

7:55 Music — A musical proclamation by combined conference musicians

8:25 Message — Morris Chapman, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
Welcome to the Convention and Prayer — Jerry Vines, president, Southern Baptist Convention; pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

8:40 Offertory — Combined choirs and orchestras of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; Champion Forest Church, Houston; Bannockburn Church, Austin, Tex.

Message — Charles Stanley, pastor, First Church, Atlanta
Introduction of 1991 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference Officers
Benediction — President of the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference

Israel worker killed at Petah-Tiqva

PETAH TIQVA, Israel (BP) — Ashi Eshel, a 33-year-old employee of Baptist Village in Israel and a Jewish believer in Jesus, was killed April 2 in an accident at the camp and conference center.

Eshel, the conference center director, was using a power tool to cut the bottom off a metal barrel that had contained paint thinner when a spark ignited the fumes. The bottom blew off the barrel, hitting Eshel and flying another 40 yards.

A volunteer who witnessed the incident sent someone for an ambulance and unsuccessfully attempted to administer first aid to Eshel, whose heart had stopped.

About 300 Jews, Arabs and expatriates attended Eshel's funeral April 3. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and three young children.

Eshel first heard the gospel when he and his wife, a gentile, or non-Jewish, believer, were traveling around Europe in the early 1980s. He was given a Bible in Hebrew by some German Christians and read it.

He eventually became convinced of the gospel's truth but refused to commit himself to Jesus because of the trouble he feared from his Orthodox Jewish family. However, his wife explained, when Eshel was called by the military to serve in the Lebanon war, he considered the possibility of his death in the conflict and asked himself, "What am I going to say to God?" Through that experience he became a believer in Christ.

David Smith is press representative for Southern Baptists in Israel.

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow. — Chinese Proverb

Today's changing world is like a highway on which you either are going forward or are in the way of folks who are.

Workshop will offer previews of ways to put 'LIFE' into church

A workshop at First Church in Jackson May 8 will offer previews of 10 ways to put "LIFE" into a church.

These 10 ways are education systems which are a part of this "Lay Institute For Equipping," which are advanced ways of equipping laity for discipleship, leadership, and ministry.

Institute on aging to be at Baylor

WACO, Texas — The fifth annual Summer Institute on Aging for Religious Workers is expected to attract participants from throughout the United States to Baylor University June 19-30.

An interfaith program, the Summer Institute on Aging for Religious Workers is an innovative approach in ministering to the aged and is designed for all religious groups committed to development ministries with older persons.

Tuition is \$450 and covers the costs of instruction and course materials but not room and board. For more information, contact Dr. Ben E. Dickerson, director, Institute of Gerontological Studies, at (817) 755-1164.

Sponsored by the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association and the Discipleship Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the workshop will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Participants will be able to choose to attend previews of any two of the following courses.

MasterLife is a six to 12 month, group discipling process which teaches the practice of Christian disciplines. Mrs. Fay McKay of Belzoni will lead the preview.

LifeGuide is a Bible study combining doctrinal study with discipleship growth. Bob Holley, director of Arkansas Discipleship Training, will lead this preview.

MasterDesign is an inductive Bible study in Ephesians relating to a person's calling as a Christian. Kenneth Walters, pastor of Southside Church, Aberdeen, will lead.

MasterBuilder is a leadership course open to MasterLife alumni. Frank Thomas, pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, is the leader.

Parenting by Grace is an aid to parents in teaching their children to mature and live responsible Christian lives. Jim Blackwell, minister of youth and family at Raymond Road

Church, Jackson, will lead.

Covenant Marriage guides couples in personal, spiritual, and marital growth potential. David Pendergrass of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will lead.

Experiencing God is a new course to be released in July which explores finding and following God's will for one's life. A Sunday School Board staffer will lead.

DecisionTime is a course teaching how to counsel persons making commitments. Ken McMillen, pastor of First Church, Byhalia, will lead.

PrayerLife offers practical experiences in developing a ministry of intercessory prayer. Jimmy McFatter of Laurel will lead.

WiseCounsel provides apprenticeship training in counseling for laypersons. Aubry Martin, pastor of First Church, Tutwiler, is the leader.

Each of these courses can be offered for groups of as few as six. Most courses are designed for 13 weeks.

Cost of the workshop is \$5 per person. A meal will be served. To register, write James Webster, Hinds-Madison Association, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39218, phone 362-8676. Make checks payable to Hinds-Madison Baptist Association.

WMU meeting to focus . . .

(Continued from page 3)
New Orleans; and Deborah Wohler, Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Two brothers and their families will be featured during the Monday evening session as they talk about the impact of missions on a family. Representing the Wakefield family will be William and Delcie Wakefield and their son and daughter-in-law, Andy and Olivia; and Robert and Margie Wakefield and their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Fran.

William Wakefield is a regional vice president for the Foreign Mission Board. Robert and Margie Wakefield are missionaries to India. Mark and

Fran Wakefield are missionaries to Fiji. Andy and Olivia Wakefield are students at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Missions work in New Orleans will be highlighted during the Sunday afternoon session.

Missions work in Louisiana will be the focus of the "Here's Missions in Louisiana" luncheon scheduled for Monday at noon in the convention center. Tickets must be ordered in advance from Order Processing, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010. Tickets are \$20 each and must be ordered by April 27.

Alexander gives info on nominations to MBC boards

Bill Alexander, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, requests that nominations of qualified Baptists for various boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be mailed to him at P. O. Box 1737, Cleveland, MS 38732, or to the Office of the Executive Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Forms for nominations may be secured by contacting the executive

director's office. Boards and commissions of the Convention are: Board of Ministerial Education, Christian Action Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Baptist Children's Village, Baptist Foundation, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, William Carey College, and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



BSU elects Sara Barker president

These are the newly-elected officers of Mississippi Baptist Student Union. From left, they are Tim Glaze, director advisor, director of the BSU at East Central Community College; Anthony Guy of Ocean Springs, executive committee, Mississippi College; Cathy Riley of Lucedale, executive committee, Mississippi University for Women; Tina Scarbrough of Derma, executive committee, Blue Mountain College; Tina Williams

of Pascagoula, secretary, William Carey College; Sara Barker of Gautier, president, Mississippi State University; and Jon Kittrell of Hattiesburg, vice president, University of Southern Mississippi. Not pictured are Rebecca Brumfield, faculty advisor from Southwest Community College, and Tommy Jarrett, pastor advisor, of Raymond Church, Raymond. (Photo by Lesley Swiley, a student at Mississippi State)

West Coast hosts its first appointment service

SAN DIEGO (BP) — The first appointment service held on the West Coast by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board took place April 3 in California, where millions of residents reflect the world's many faces, cultures and languages.

Twenty-nine missionaries were appointed in the service held at the San Diego Convention and Performing Arts Center. California Southern Baptist churches worship in 46 different languages Sunday mornings, and nearly half of the state's 1,300 churches are other than Anglo congregations.

More than 3,000 people from throughout the state attended the appointment service and 75 of them responded to an invitation to commitment from board President R. Keith Parks. Forty-three of those, including five pastors and several college students, indicated they would like to "explore career service."

The appointment service was the second of six scheduled this year by the board. More than 3,700 missionaries are serving in 116 countries of the world. The 29 new missionaries, and another reappointed the next day, will see service in 13 countries.

California's diversity was

highlighted in greetings given by C.B. Hogue, state convention executive director.

"This is a unique state . . . for a unique occasion," Hogue said. Describing California's 28 million people as a microcosm of the world, he reported that 210 dialects and languages are used by translators in the Los Angeles area. A Chinese Baptist church in Los Angeles is the state's third-largest, he added.

Sixteen of the new missionaries already had a type of "foreign" mission experience. Three are children of foreign missionaries, one was a journeyman, and 12 had some form of volunteer overseas mission work.

Joy Sanders of Mississippi saw the importance of mission service in the lives of her parents who are missionaries in Argentina. She eagerly accepted God's call to mission service. But when she met her husband, Stephen, of Texas and also a child of missionaries, she had to wait nearly two years before he was willing to go.

"A big part of the Christian life is trust, trust that in (God's) time things will work out," Sanders explained. "Missions is a command in God's world, a way of life."

The Sanderses will go to Indonesia.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Courage of convictions

Editor:

Dr. Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, spoke recently to a group of Rankin County pastors. I attended the meeting fully expecting Dr. Jones to make me feel good about what I already believe and then leave me alone to continue comfortably in my complacency. I was mistaken.

While he did strengthen my convictions by reinforcing Biblical foundations, Dr. Jones steadfastly refused to let me remain smug. In just so many words he let me know that merely having convictions on moral and ethical issues is insufficient. In fact, he rather pointedly suggested that I have a responsibility to apply my beliefs in my own life and to lead my congregation to put their convictions into action daily.

Dr. Jones' position seems to be that we Christians (and especially we pastors) must know what the Bible teaches and that we should be good stewards of that knowledge by applying it honestly to all of life. His message was a better sermon than I have heard in a long while, even if I do have to listen to myself preach each Sunday.

As Dr. Jones spoke, I thought about all the flak he has taken from a nominally Christian community because of his strong, uncompromising stands on issues like the lottery and abortion. While I have stood in my pulpit and preached principles with which I knew my congregation would be in full agreement, he has been on the front lines of the battlefield where

the audience is not always friendly and where having Biblical convictions can prove costly.

In a society which tells us to keep our principles to ourselves, I am grateful to God for a man like Paul Jones who dares to practice what he preaches and to lead us to do the same. Mississippi Baptists are to be commended for seeking out a man who has the courage of his convictions to lead our Christian Action Commission.

Monitor the WMU?

Editor:

Did I read aright? The press reported recently that the SBC leaders (past presidents, et cetera) meeting in Georgia to select their slate of nominees for SBC officers at the coming convention were so disturbed that Mrs. Joseph Crumpler, nee Carolyn Weatherford, the past executive director of the WMU, had announced that she would seek nomination as first vice-president of the SBC, that they announced they would monitor the WMU. Surely that must be a mistake. Would responsible leaders be so jealous of their desired positions they would dare assume they were the guardians of Zion? Shades of Joe McCarthy and J. Frank Norris!

The WMU has a long and glorious history in their role of "big sister" to the convention in the promotion of missions among Southern Baptists. They receive no Cooperative Program funds. The convention elects no

trustees to supervise their work. They are "auxiliary" to the convention and seek only to serve. Are they to be suspect (of what) simply because one of their number would like to extend her service in a position that by tradition is an honorary post? Someone should rise to repeat the words of Patrick Henry uttered long ago in defense of those who would serve Christ, "Great God! Can it be that these men were arrested for preaching the Gospel of Christ?"

Southern Baptists have indeed come to a sorry day when an entire organization given to mission promotion is suspect because one of their number seeks a place of service in their midst. Pile upon your houses, brethren! For shame, for shame! Your littleness is showing!

L. H. Moore
Editor emeritus
The Ohio Baptist Messenger

Piano repaired

Editor:

I was interested to see in the March 15 issue of the Baptist Record the picture of Capernaum Baptist Church in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

It was my privilege to be in that church, which meets in the pictured tent, last year while serving as a short-term volunteer for the Foreign Mission Board as a piano tuner-technician.

On Jan. 27, 1989, Capernaum had an all-night prayer service to pray specifically for someone to repair the badly damaged, water logged piano so that their newly called minister of music could begin a churchwide musical program. Another object of prayer was for a building to be erected on their concrete slab.

On Jan. 28, I had a cancellation in my schedule which was prepared by the director of music for the Venezuelan Baptist Convention. It was suggested that I go by Capernaum to see if anything could be done for their

piano. It was in this leaky tent that had been brought from the states in a flight from Houston as luggage four years ago by missionary Buck Smith.

Well, that piano would have been junked almost anywhere in the world; but after many hours of hard work, I was able to make it play respectably. Later, the pastor, Isaisas Rojas, and the minister of music and several church members came in and found the piano in playing condition. One of the highlights of my entire three weeks in that country was hearing the shouts of praise and prayers of thanksgiving for answered prayer. We join them still in prayer for a building in which to meet.

Your article states that they now have a membership of 130. That is encouraging, because they reported a membership of 95 when I was there.

Lloyd T. Cotten
Picayune

Chapter and verse

Editor:

In response to the request for "chapter and verse" concerning Dr. Peale, I give the following examples:

On the Phil Donahue show in October 1984 he denied the necessity of being born again. "I have my own personal relationship with God; you've got yours," he told a questioner. (Phil Donahue show transcript, Oct. 23, 1984). In an April 1984 interview, he called the virgin birth "some theological idea of no importance to salvation." (Family Weekly, Ventura Tree Press, April 15, 1984, cover story). He tells how he and his wife filled their church one rainy night by visualizing people "streaming into the church." He attributes this "miracle" to "the power that he (God) put into our subconscious mind through imaging the power that turns wishes into realities when the wishes are strong enough." (Imaging, Norman Vincent Peale, pp. 20, 77). Also, he advocates a meditation technique visualizing a

white mist which he calls a "life force which will make your mind come alive with new power." (No More Stress or Tension, Norman Vincent Peale; plus The Power of Positive Thinking magazine, May, 1986, pp. 22, 23.)

There are countless other examples, but these will suffice. As sincere as Dr. Peale may be, his teaching of visualization and positive confession are not scriptural and were never taught by Jesus. They are simply man's attempt to manipulate God. To accept and strive for unity in the church at the expense of sound doctrine is wrong. If you will study Romans 16:17, you will notice it is those who refuse to have their false doctrines judged who are causing the wrong kind of division and who should be avoided.

Deborah P. Waddell
Brandon

Antioch anniversary

Editor:

Antioch Church (Jasper) is planning its 150th homecoming celebration. The date is to be set. Please contact David Phippen, Rt. 1, Box 280-A, Bay Springs, MS 39422 (764-3979) if you were a former pastor or a member who would be interested in attending and supplying any information while you were at Antioch. Thank you for your assistance.

Carey Bass, pastor
Antioch Church
Loun

The largest state Baptist convention is the Texas convention, with over 2 million members.

The state with the most WMU members is North Carolina, with more than 140,000.

For a state to be represented on boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, it must have 25,000 members of cooperating churches.

BSU to send 67 student missionaries

These are the 67 student summer missionaries who will be serving in the U.S. and around the world this summer. They will be working alongside career home and foreign missionaries for ten-week terms. Their fellow students in 35 Baptist Student Unions on college campuses across Mississippi are raising the \$100,000 it will take to send these out.



THELMA PENTON
Pearl River
Canada



PAIGE TRACEY
Pearl River
Canada



JAN COLE
Miss. Colleg
Israel



LESLIE STOKES
M.U.W.
Israel



MISSY JANCZEWSKI
Miss. College
Japan



ANNE BRANNON
Miss. College
Philippines



PAM BROWN
Delta State
Philippines



JAY BULLEN
Miss. College
Philippines



TRACY FORTENBERRY
Miss. State
Philippines



SANDRA GEORGE
Miss. College
Philippines



ANN TULLOS
U.S.M.
Philippines



TINA WILLIAMS
William Carey
Philippines



STEVEN WRIGHT
Miss. College
Philippines



GERVAISE CHUAH
Ole Miss
Taiwan



JON KITTRELL
U.S.M.
Taiwan



TRACI STOVALL
Miss. College
Taiwan



STACY BROADWATER
U.S.M.
Alaska



ELISA DICKERSON
Northeast
Alaska



EVELYN MINTON
Gulf Coast
Alaska



MICHELLE HANCOCK
Miss. Delta
Arkansas



BETH ANGLIN
Jones
California



JESSICA ATTEBERRY
U.S.M.
California



AMY CAMERON
Jones
California



GALA HERRON
Delta State
California



SUSAN LEE
Miss. State
California



SHELL OGLESBY
Blue Mountain
California



LISA SULLIVAN
Miss. College
California



LESLEY VANCE
Miss. State
California



STACEY JACKSON
Pearl River
Colorado



LORIE ROWLAND
Holmes
Georgia



LISA CALDER
Hinds
Hawaii



RUBEN RAQUEL
Blue Mountain
Hawaii



SCOTT MARLER
Co-Lin
Iowa



LISA THOMPSON
Ole Miss
Iowa



CHRIS TWILLEY
Northwest
Iowa



LORI EMBRY
Northwest
Kansas



MELVIN McLEMORE
Holmes
Louisiana



THOMAS ROOTS
Hinds-Jackson
Louisiana



PEGGY SUE FLOYD
Holmes
Minn./Wisc.



HEIDI MILNER
Meridian
Minn./Wisc.



SUSAN HIGHT
Miss. College
Montana



SHANELL GRAYSON
Hinds
New England



LILIA MAY
Miss. State
New England



JOANNA GERALD
U.S.M.
New Mexico



BECKA ROBERTS
Blue Mountain
New Mexico

Thursday, April 19, 1990

Woman's Missionary Union

June 10-11, 1990

New Orleans Convention Center

Theme: "Hearts of One Accord"

MSU BSU sponsors five mission projects

By Lesley Vance

The Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union sponsored five mission projects during Spring Break '90. "I encourage everyone to be a minister and share God's work," Jimmy Whittemore, senior at MSU, said.

Twelve students went to Clearwater, Fla., and participated in Beach Reach '90 which is sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention. The purpose of Beach Reach '90 was to share the love, forgiveness, and salvation of Jesus Christ to the people on the beach. The students were involved in open air dialogue, volleyball games, and sharing their faith one-on-one.

The students also provided the "Sun Care Unit" which gave out 2,000 cups of water and treated more than 500 people with sunburns. As a result of Beach Reach '90, 27 people accepted Jesus Christ. "People are searching for an answer and it is our responsibility to share our faith with them," Lilia May, a junior at MSU, said.

Seven students traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., and worked with home missionaries, Jeff and Mary Ellen Powell. The students made 13,099 telephone calls to inform the community of a new church, Hope Community Church, to be started by Southern Baptists in Las Vegas.

Fourteen students went to Kansas City, Mo., and led a DiscipleNow, which is a time of intensive Bible study and fellowship, for college students from Maple Wood and Longview Community Colleges. The MSU students also ministered at Backyard Bible clubs and shelters for the homeless. Drawn Together, a BSU contemporary music group, performed four concerts in area churches. "The mission trip showed me different spiritual gifts people have and how those people are a minister to me," Whittemore said.

In Madisonville, Ky., 15 MSU students led a youth revival at Park Avenue Baptist Church. The students also ministered through youth and children's activities and to middle-class families and elderly people. As a result of this mission project six people accepted Christ. "We saw God work miracles through prayer. In order for things to happen, we must pray," Jennifer Shelton, a sophomore at MSU, said.

An MSU-BSU singing group, The Fishermen, went to Peoria, Ill., to minister through music. They led worship services in three churches and assisted with the formation of a youth orchestra. The Fishermen performed a puppet show and led singing for "St. Jude Kids."

Ken Watson is BSU director at MSU.

Lesley Vance is a student at MSU.

New major in church planting

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — To help meet the need for new churches in the west, Golden Gate Seminary will offer a master of divinity degree with an emphasis in church planting, beginning this fall.

"The program will prepare students for starting new church work," explained G. William Schweer, professor of evangelism at Golden Gate.

Sunday, June 10

2:30 p.m. Meditation: "Near to the Heart of God" — Carol Aultman, contract instructor, University of New Orleans, children's choir coordinator, First Church of New Orleans; Mary Simmons, music teacher, organist, Edgewater Church, New Orleans; Chris Kihn, minister of music, McElwain Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Responsive Reading — Congregation

Theme Interpretation: "Hearts of One Accord" — Joann H. Goatcher, medical consultant, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Prayer — Dorothy Allred, president, North Carolina WMU, Gastonia

Call to Order — Marjorie J. McCollough, president, WMU, Alexandria, La.

Hymns

7:00 p.m. Missions Medley — The Centurymen; Buryl Red, conducting

Meditation: "Near to the Heart of God"

Responsive Reading — Congregation

Theme Interpretation: "Hearts of One Accord" — Joann Goatcher

Prayer — Norma Altis, president, Missouri WMU, Liberty

Hymns

Message: Touching Hearts in Liberia — Deborah Moore, missionary to Liberia

Special Music — Centurymen and Congregation

Hymn

Message — Ruth A. Tucker, author, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Benediction: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Monday, June 11

9:30 a.m. Meditation: "Near to the Heart of God" — Carol Aultman, Mary Simmons, Chris Kihn

Responsive Reading — Congregation

Theme Interpretation: "Hearts of One Accord" — Joann Goatcher

Prayer — Betty Turnbull, president, Ohio WMU, Strongsville

Hymns

Introduction of Local Committee

Business

Second Century Fund Recipients — Cynthia Wilson, associate trust counsel, Baptist Foundation of Texas, Dallas

Presentation of home missionaries

Hymn

Missions Kaleidoscope: Women in the Heart of Home Missions — Karen Dewitt, chaplain, family and youth ministry, Tarrant County Jail, Fort Worth, Texas; Karen Sue Gross, missionary to migrants, Hope, Ark.; Pamela R. Mungo, director of church extension ministries, Baptist Convention of New England, Northboro, Mass.; Gwendolyn L. Williams, director of urban ministries for Grace Church, New Orleans; Deborah L. Wohler, church and community ministries consultant, Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Benediction: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

2:00 p.m. Meditation: "Near to the Heart of God" — Carol Aultman, Mary Simmons, Chris Kihn

Responsive Reading — Congregation

Theme Interpretation: "Hearts of One Accord" — Joann Goatcher

Prayer — Donna Brewer, president, Illinois WMU, Fairview Heights

Hymns

WMU Executive Board Report — Dellanna W. O'Brien, WMU executive director, Birmingham, Ala.

Hymn

Presentation of National Acteens Panelists

Hymn

Special Music — Carol Aultman

Message: Missions Education — The Heart of Woman's Missionary Union — Monte Clendinning, conference coordinator, World Mission/Evangelism Center, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Benediction: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

7:00 p.m. Meditation: "Near to the Heart of God" — Carol Aultman, Mary Simmons, Chris Kihn

Responsive Reading — Congregation

Theme Interpretation: "Hearts of One Accord" — Joann Goatcher

Prayer — Nancy Hazelwood, president, Indiana WMU, Loogootee

Hymns

Presentation of Foreign Missionaries Missions Kaleidoscope: The Wakefields Have a Heart for Missions — William and Delsie Wakefield, regional vice president for Asia and Pacific, Foreign Mission Board; Robert and Margie Wakefield, missionaries to India; Andy and Olivia Wakefield, students, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. students, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Hymn

Special Music — Denton Lotz, general secretary/treasurer, Baptist World Alliance

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Benediction: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"



CHARLES JACKSON
Co-Lin
New York



WALTER ALLEN
Miss. State
North Carolina



SHAY BERTHELSON
Co-Lin
North Carolina



PATRICK SCOGGINS
Jones
North Dakota



WENDI BRYANT
Northwest
Northwest



ANDREA HULLUM
Jones
Northwest



TROY MARSHALL
Blue Mountain
Northwest



STEPHANIE PATRICK
East Central
Northwest



JOHN SNYDER
Blue Mountain
Northwest



DAVID WALLACE
Blue Mountain
Northwest



TAMMY JO WILLIAMS
Northeast
Northwest



NONA WALKER
Delta State
Oklahoma



TAMMY BOUNDS
Clarke
Pennsylvania



CHRISTINA MCGEE
Jones
Pennsylvania



TONYA PITTS
U.S.M.
Pennsylvania



BARRI TURNER
Jones
Pennsylvania



LISA HATCHER
East Central
South Dakota



MARY HELEN COLLINS
Miss. State
Tennessee



MIKE HESTER
Miss. State
Tennessee



JARED PORTER
Jones
Tennessee



JIMMY BATES
Miss. College
Virginia



KEYTA PANNELL
Itawamba
Washington, D.C.

Two diverse groups discuss upcoming SBC meet in N.O.

DALLAS (BP) — Two diverse groups, both concerned about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention, met in the Dallas-Fort Worth area April 5 to discuss the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, June 12-14.

One group of 20-25 people, including a dozen student pastors from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, met at South Hills Church there and were encouraged by W. Winfred Moore to continue involvement in and support of the SBC, to go to the convention, and take their laymen with them.

The other group, 15 pastors from nine states, met at the Dallas-Fort Worth Hilton Hotel and adopted a seven-point statement that included endorsement of Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Tex., for the convention presidency and the call for a broadened base of denominational leadership.

Moore, retired pastor of First Church of Amarillo, Tex., who now is teaching at Baylor University, spoke to the students and others at the invitation of Kyle Henderson, a student at the seminary and pastor of New Hope Church, in Mansfield, Tex.

Henderson said he wrote to 70 student pastors at the seminary and invited them to come hear Moore in the hope they could be a "starting point" in "part of the solution" to the controversy in the SBC.

Moore, former spokesman for Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, which has been a supporter of Atlanta pastor Daniel Vestal for the presidency of the SBC, never spoke directly about the presidential election, limiting his remarks to questions posed to him in the letter from Henderson asking him to speak to the students.

The former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and SBC

first vice president, told the students "there is a future for you in the SBC" and encouraged them to learn all they could about denominational struggles in the past, to go to New Orleans and to encourage lay messengers from their churches to attend.

He cautioned them about non-involvement in the denomination, a path he said he took for years until 1983, although his church all through his ministry was one of the national leaders in support of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

In spite of the current controversy, Moore said, the SBC and the Cooperative Program still offer the best opportunity available for a church to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas, arranged the meeting room for the pastors at the DFW Hilton. They were a "loose-knit" group, mostly "non-aligned" in the controversy, who were summoned together by telephone after the recent call for a broadened base of SBC leadership around a "perfect Bible" by John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston, and by Chapman, he said. Endorsement of that philosophy by former SBC Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., and others prompted their get-together, said Graham.

The plan, Graham and the others said, has potential for ending the denominational controversy in uniting people who have been unified theologically but who may have differed on "methods or timing for our denominational renewal."

The seven-point statement affirmed SBC cooperative missions efforts, including the Cooperative Program; the Bible as "God's perfect word, truth without any mixture of error";

the Peace Committee conclusion that the major source of denominational controversy has been over theological differences; the belief that the "conservative" movement the last 11 years was necessary to correct "a dangerous theological drift in our denomination"; a broadened base of denominational leadership "within the context of our theological moorings"; endorsement of Chapman; and encouraging churches to send messengers to New Orleans.

Attending the meeting and signing the statement were four Texans, Graham; Rick Scarborough, Retta Church, Burleson; Curt Dodd, Metropolitan Church, Houston; and Hal Kinkeade, Bethany Church, Dallas; two Floridians, Larry Thompson, First Church, Merritt Island; and Randall Williams, First Church, Tampa; Two Louisianans, David Hankins, Trinity Church, Lake Charles, and Lawton Searcy, First Church, Baton Rouge; two Oklahomans, Claude Thomas, Council Road Church, Bethany, and Bobby Boyles, First Church, Moore; and David Bruce, Riverside Church, Denver, Colo.; Ronnie Floyd, First Church, Springdale, Ark.; Dwight "Ike" Reighard, New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.; and Jerry Sutton, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; and Jack Millwood, First Church, North Mobile, Ala.

Not attending but sending letters of agreement were Joel Gregory, Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth; Mike Hamlet, First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.; Phil Hotsenspieler, Applewood Church, Wheatridge, Colo.; Fred Lowery, First Church, Bossier City, La.; James Merritt, First Church, Snellville, Ga.; Joe McKinney, First Church, Albuquerque, N.M.; and Gene Smith, First Church, New Port Richey, Fla.

capsules

Ag project is completed

An agricultural project begun at the Baptist camp at Teresina, Piaui, Brazil, has been completed, reports Vic Johnston, missionary. "We have finished four fish tanks," he said, "pig barn, and installed a carpenter's shop. We now have 4,000 fingerlings and 13 pigs. We are beginning to train some young men how to use the equipment in the shop."

"The rains have finally come, so the 15 acres we have planted in rice, corn, beans, pumpkin, papaya, and manioc looks great now. I have also been selling charcoal for people at the camp to help them out."

Johnston oversees three other water and garden projects, 12 to 14 hours south of Teresina. He said that the project in Piracuruca is fully functioning, with about eight acres planted and 5,000 fish being fattened.

Korea, La. Baptists start 20 churches

SEOUL, South Korea — Meeting in tents, basements and storefronts, Korean Baptists started 20 churches in one week in March with the help of Louisiana Baptists. The church-planting crusade linked Louisiana churches with Korean "mother" churches or associations in a plan aimed to start congregations in 20 areas with no Baptist churches.

The effort involved 43 Louisiana volunteers, Southern Baptist missionaries from South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong and hundreds of Korean Baptists. The volunteers were divided into 20 teams — one for each location.

About 250 people made professions of faith in Christ as the teams also visited in more than 1,000 homes.

Moscow Baptists play host to radio

MOSCOW — The basement of Central Baptist Church in Moscow will be the home of radio production facilities to be installed and operated by Trans World Radio. The studios, scheduled to become operational in April, will be the first such government-sanctioned Christian facilities in the Soviet Union.

Additional studios are planned in Kiev and Minsk. Several mobile recording units also are planned. Trans World Radio offices in Monaco currently produce more than 40 hours of Russian-language programming each week.

Stewardship okays budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission adopted a \$2.4 million 1990-91 budget and elected a Virginia pastor as chairman during its annual board meeting March 15-16 in Nashville.

The \$2,432,600 budget is a 2.99 percent increase over the 1989-90 budget of \$2,361,890.

The commission is to receive \$489,479 in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget receipts, a 1.89 percent increase. The remainder of the commission's income will come from publishing, fees and interest on investment.

Joe E. Burton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Radford, Va., was elected chairman, succeeding John Wallace, a layman from Morristown, Tenn., who was not eligible for re-election.

Also elected were Roy Moody, state stewardship director for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Topeka, Kan., vice chairman; and Dan Stowe, a layman from Mechanicsburg, Ohio, secretary.

The next meeting of the commission will be held March 14-15, 1991, in Nashville.

Bible societies emerge in USSR

MOSCOW — Baptists have been at the forefront of two Bible societies formed recently in the Soviet Union, according to John Erickson, New York-based chairman of the United Bible Societies executive committee. Baptist and Lutheran churches organized the Latvian Bible Society in December, while Soviet Baptist leader Alexei Bichkov helped spearhead creation of the Russian Bible Society in January. Also, a Bible society in Armenia is being formed.

Calif. church gets more Bibles

NASHVILLE (BP) — A California church that has recorded 1,250 professions of faith in Christ through Scripture distribution is being given an additional 10,000 "Here's Hope" New Testaments to support the revival that has broken out in the church.

Members of True Vine Baptist Church in Oakland have given away 12,000 testaments through door-to-door witnessing since November, said to Pastor Newton Carey Jr.

The additional New Testaments are being given to the church by the Sunday School and Home Mission boards.

The influx of new converts and burgeoning spirit of revival have put a strain on the church's finances, Carey said, noting people still need to be reached.

Poor spend on lottery

MADISON, Wis. (EP) — Wisconsin's poor spend a larger percentage of their income on the state lottery than wealthy people, according to a recent study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The study found that those with annual family incomes under \$10,000 spend a monthly average of \$8.32 on the lottery. Those in the wealthiest group, making over \$60,000 per year, spend an average of \$10.89 a month.

'Enduring Faith' film honored

LOS ANGELES — "Enduring Faith," the film documentary about Baptist life in the Soviet Union produced by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has won a Silver Angel award. The prize was presented during the 1990 International Angel Awards, sponsored by Religion in Media. Silver Angels honor media productions judged excellent in their moral, spiritual, and social dimensions.

"Gambling is an invisible addiction"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Gambling is emerging as one of the most dangerous addictions of our time, said an expert in the field.

Joseph A. Dunne told participants at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual seminar March 12-14 in Birmingham, Ala., that gambling is an "invisible addiction."

We may not see the gamblers, but they are all around us, said the former president of the National Council on Compulsive Gambling, based in New York City.

Although gambling has been around for thousands of years, Dunne said, the beginning of the "gambling mania" facing America today began in 1964.

That year the state of New Hampshire "defied the federal government on the grounds of state's rights and established a state lottery commission, which in turn contracted a company to run its lottery," Dunne said.

"That grand experiment" was watched by other states and soon was

replicated in 30 other states plus the District of Columbia, he noted.

Ironically, Dunne said, the purpose of the lotteries was to raise funds for education. But "the interesting part of this approach is that the funds derived from gambling do not usually add to the budget of the state education office for more schools, teachers, and equipment," he countered.

"These monies are used for 'auxiliary services' or an equal amount is deducted from the state education authorization and then used for other purposes."

Dunne provided conference participants a handout with information about compulsive gambling as an addiction. An interesting fact, Dunne pointed out, is that between 5 percent and 15 percent of problem gamblers are dually addicted. They drink or use drugs as well as gamble compulsively.

Gambling is "any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for

money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or skill," Dunne said, providing the definition of gambling as defined by victims of compulsive gambling.

Compulsive gambling has three phases, he said: the winning phase, where an individual is "trapped" with some early successes; the losing phase, where the individual borrows to gamble and tries to cover up and eventually is "bailed" out; and the desperation phase, where the gambler becomes alienated from family and friends and becomes involved in illegal acts to raise funds for the addiction.

At the end of the desperation phase is hopelessness, suicidal thoughts and attempts, arrests, divorce, alcohol abuse, emotional breakdown and withdrawal symptoms, Dunne said.

Recovery also has three phases — critical, rebuilding and growth — which can lead to a new life, he noted.

BWA increases one-and-a-half-million

VALLEY FORGE, Pennsylvania (EP) — The Baptist World Alliance grew by more than one-and-a-half million members in 1989, according to BWA statistics. The BWA membership at the end of 1989 included 136,154

churches (up 6,269 from 1988), and 35,875,005 baptized members (up 1,705,613 from 1988), according to J. Ralph McIntyre, director of the BWA's Division of Study and Research. The

144-member conventions range in size from the 14.8 million member Southern Baptist Convention, to the 134-member Australasian Conference of Seventh Day Baptists.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Today I stood in the rain

Saturday, April 14: Today was the day before Easter. We never know, do we, where we will be from one day to the next? We list goals and fill calendars and say "I will on next weekend do so and so."

Perhaps I'll learn to say with James, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

I had planned, "At Easter, I will take a day of vacation on Good Friday, and W.D. and I will go to visit Mama and take her to Georgia to Betty's house to see her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Little Emmett will be there; probably he'll even be walking by now. We can all go to church together."

But today was the day before Easter and I stood in Mississippi rain beside a freshly dug grave, prepared for a person I loved.

When I was three, a baby sister arrived at our house, a new playmate I adored. As I grew older, I longed for a brother. If we two sisters just had a brother, how wonderful it would be! I prayed and prayed for a baby brother. The answer came years later — in a different way from that I had expected.

When I married W. D., I claimed his two brothers as my brothers. George, the oldest, died 10 years ago. Today I stood by the grave of the youngest. He and I were born the same year, 1929. His name was Miles Burnell, but almost everybody called him Speedy, a nickname given him, I think, when he played baseball at high school in Silver City, or maybe in the brief time he was signed up with the Cincinnati Reds.

On September 25, 1955, he was best man at our wedding, towering at least three inches above W. D.'s 6'2".

Though he never lost an almost childlike air of innocence, he usually kept a merry twinkle in his dark eyes that let you know he was planning to do or say something mischievous. I think I've written about the time when he and W. D. were boys on a farm near Midnight, when Speedy dared W. D. to

place his hand on the chopping block and then gave the hand a blow with the axe! W. D. still has his hand, with a scar across the back of it.

He liked to tease people, including me. Once when he was at our house and I was cooking oyster stew for supper, he picked up the jar of oysters and ate a lot of them raw, just to see me gag! The latest picture I have of him was taken last September at the McWilliams family reunion. He is standing beside his closest friend, Ann Brewer, and is holding up one index finger at the camera, as in the WJTV commercial.

His life held many tragedies. His son, David, died of cancer, quite young. His stepson, Skeeter, died in a motorcycle accident. His wife, Evelyn, died two years ago, of cancer. About five years ago, he learned he had leukemia. Yet I never heard him complaining about these sadnesses. I'm sure he was hurting many times that he didn't let others see; but he gave the appearance that to him life was for living, now, with enthusiasm, and not for looking backward with regret.

His daughter, Teresa, and her husband and two children lived near his house, a few miles from Magee.

I remember his joy the day he told me on the phone that his son, Mike, had made a profession of faith in Christ. When Speedy died last Wednesday, Mike, a Marine, was on a plane from Japan to California.

Today was the day before Easter. Beside the grave, I stood in the rain, under a broken umbrella. I heard a preacher read a promise, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

My heart lifted, for in the drops of rain I felt God's tears were mingling with my tears. He did care about our sorrow. In these words I heard again the promise of Easter. And I know — I know — I know — that up there, behind the heavy clouds, the sun shines.

Thursday, April 19, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Clinton team to witness in Kenya in biggest partnership endeavor ever

By Anne W. McWilliams

Four thousand nationals, 120 missionaries, Baptists from 14 nations, and 700 Southern Baptist volunteers from the U.S.A. will form the largest partnership evangelistic mission endeavor in SBC history June 20-July 3 and July 7-24, on the east coast of Kenya, along the Indian Ocean. Twenty-two from Mississippi will be among the volunteers, all members of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Revivals have been sweeping that section of Africa, also drawing converts from among the Muslims. John Russell, associate pastor of Morrison Heights, who is leading the group from the church, said, "In the Mombasa area alone, more than 2,000 Muslims were converted and baptized last year. Since 1986, over 132,000 people — Muslims and others — in the Mombasa region have received the gift of eternal life." Some missiologists, in fact, have called this the first revival of any kind among an Islamic people. Russell said that Jim Smith, director of SBC Brotherhood, reported that last month he preached in Kenya, and 400 were baptized, many of them Muslims.

Missionaries from Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya are helping out in this effort. Nationals have been trained to help. The Morrison Heights team will work with the missionary, Ralph C. Bethea Jr., former Mississippian. James Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, at the request of Kenya Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, coordinated the bringing together of the 700 volunteers.

The Morrison Heights team will go July 7-24, and so will benefit from the preparatory work of the first group who will go June 20-July 3. For 10 days they will take part in door-to-door witnessing, crusade services, and helping to start new congregations. After the first five days, they will get a two-day break to go on safari. Each team of 4-6 will have interpreters from the local church to which it is assigned. Russell will preach at crusade services, as will several of the laymen who will accompany him.

Russell, who preached in the Mombasa area of Kenya in 1987, expressed tremendous excitement over his plans to return. During the first trip he preached at the Ushindi Baptist Church, and personally baptized 178 persons. "It's like the book of Acts all over again!" he said.

He said that the people there have all-night prayer meetings on Wednesday nights, and then go to work the next day. He was impressed with their patience, and with their enthusiasm over worship services. "They meet in house churches," he said, "which usually means under a tree. When I was there, one day the service was changed from one house — or one tree — to another. The service was to begin at 9:30 a.m., but I was not able to find the meeting place and arrive there until 2:30 p.m. Yet the people had waited all day for me. Sermons are two hours long, or longer. At night, they bring their lanterns and sit on blankets under the trees."

Since Muslim mosques are ornate and beautiful, he said, the Muslims often say to Christians: "Your God is poor. You have no church." Consequently, the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has been assisting these Baptists with the cost of land and buildings for churches.

The cost of this trip is to be \$2,600 for each volunteer. For all the 22 at Morrison Heights, that amounts to \$57,200. To date, they have received around \$25,000 in gifts from various individuals interested in thus being a part of this mission venture.

The Clinton team will hold a garage sale, bake sale, and cookout at Morrison Heights Church on April 21, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.; proceeds will go to the Kenya trip. Catfish plates will be \$5; barbecue chicken plates will be \$4; and hamburger plates will be \$3.

In May, a car wash will be held at the church; the proceeds will be used to buy Bibles and medical supplies for Kenya. Owens Palmertree, a dentist, and his wife, Donna, members of the church team, plan to treat patients

in Kenya. Russell said that if other churches would want to help in this project in some way, that the provision of Bibles and medical supplies is one real need.

Another definite need is for prayer, he said, "for divine appointments, for safety in travel, and for good health." Those going to Kenya have been advised to take yellow fever, cholera, typhoid fever, meningococcal, and tetanus shots, and to take tablets for prevention of malaria. There has been an epidemic of meningitis in some areas of Kenya and Tanzania. But the Clinton team has been told recently that there is no vaccine available at present for the shot for prevention of that.

About the need for prayer, Russell told a story to illustrate the reality of demonic influences the teams might expect to encounter. He said it gives him cold chills just to remember the incident, and that he has related it to few persons. When he was in Mombasa in 1987, a woman at one service, he said, fell down in the dirt and rolled in the sand, fill her mouth, nose and eyes with sand. She began uttering strange sounds, which were not Swahili, but another language one man recognized and could speak.

The man, who lived in another area, told the pastor a demon in the woman was saying, "I will not be baptized." The pastor, Joseph, said to her, "Come out of her, in the name of Jesus," and the woman relaxed and got up, her normal self. During all this, another member of Russell's team was making a video of the episode. When the volunteer group returned to the U.S., they immediately wanted to see that scene. The video was clear up to that event — during it was only static — and then clear again!

Nevertheless, Russell says, "Our belief is that 100,000 souls can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior during this time of witnessing. Think about that for a harvest!"

Area VIII WMU to sponsor event for "1990s women"

Area VIII WMU is sponsoring an event for women in the 10-county area that includes Lawrence, Walthall, Jefferson Davis, Marion, Lamar, Covington, Jones, Forrest, Perry, and Wayne counties. This special event will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

"Unto the Least of These" is the theme for this event for "today's 1990s woman."

The opening session will feature speakers and music; lunch will be served; and there will be a choice of conferences to attend.

Conference leaders and topics are Beverly Sutton, executive director, Alabama WMU — "Who Is the 1990s Woman?"; Dottie Williamson, home missionary in Mississippi — "Home Missions . . . Here and There"; Vince Scoper, state senator from Laurel — "Social and Moral Concerns Affecting Legislation"; Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU — "Being . . . More Than Doing"; Dottie Hudson, family counselor, First

Church, Jackson — "The Family Faces a Changing World"; and W. W. Walley, M.D., physician from Waynesboro — "The Christian's Response to AIDS." Participants will be able to attend three conferences.

Cliff Brown, manager, WDAM-TV, Hattiesburg, will speak on "The Media Influence." Sutton and Patterson will speak during the opening session on "A Decade of Decision" and "Missions 1990-91," respectively. Special music will be provided by Jeanne Forrester, First Church, Hattiesburg.

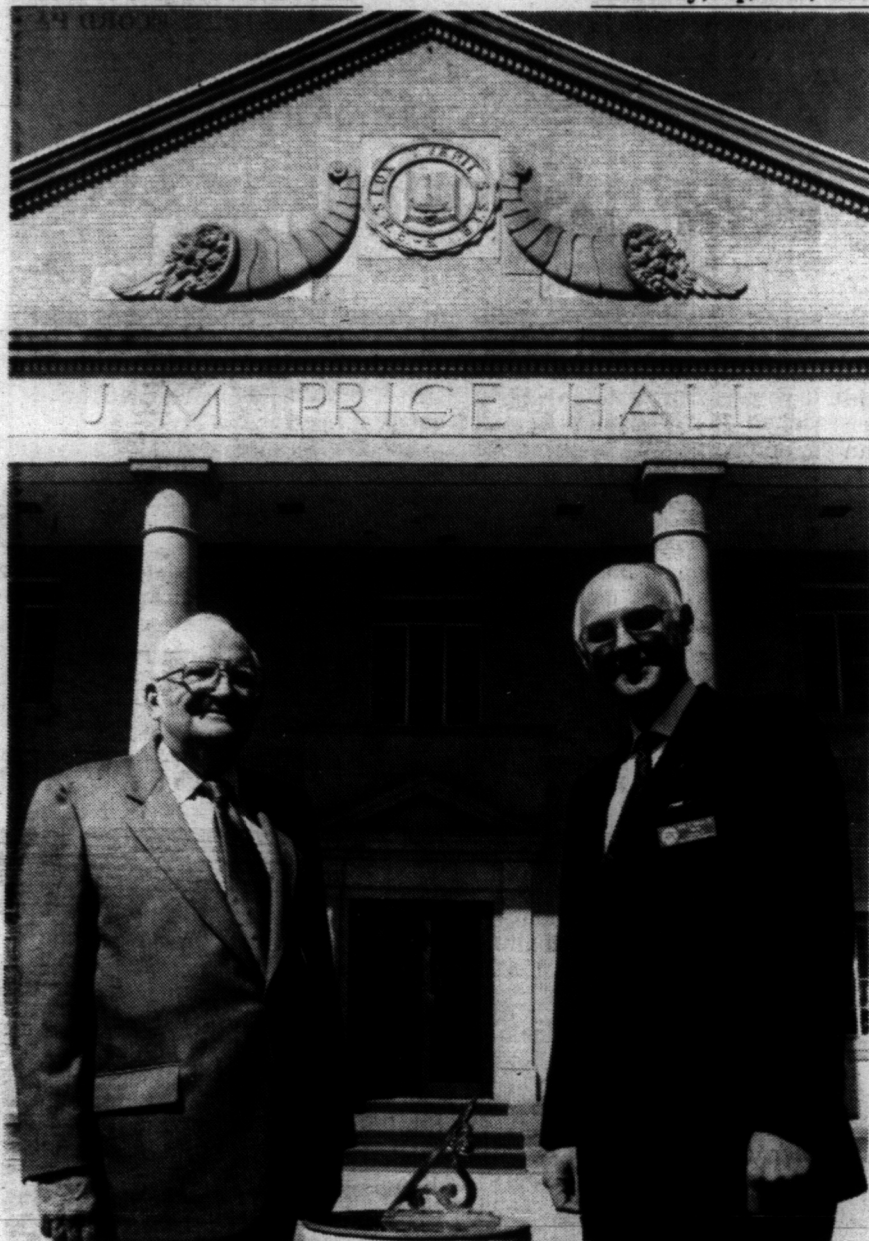
The deadline for registration is May 11. Forms for registration are on flyers promoting the event. Anyone who does not have a form should send \$5.00 each to Mrs. Peggy Huey, Area 8 Coordinator, 312 South 36th Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Beware of the listener who always understands. Beware of the talker who leads you by the hands. — John Erskine.



Twenty-two members of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, are planning to go on volunteer mission to Kenya in July. They are pictured above. Back row, left to right: Michael Simpson, Thad Harper, John Barlow, Claire Barlow, Theresa Gossett, Doyle Jones, Dennis Herrington. Middle row, left to right: Bill

Nettles, Bruce Tarbet, James Marbury, Becky Dewett, Loyce Miles, John Russell, associate pastor. Front row, left to right: Richard Colium, Donna Palmertree, Meredith Meniglio, Alisa Brashear, Cathy Berry, Owens Palmertree. Not pictured: Cheryl and Jaman Matthews, Berk Sauls.



Diamond anniversary

Joe Davis Heacock, left, and Jack Terry stand next to a sundial dedicated during the 75th anniversary of the founding of the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Seminary. Behind the two men is Price Hall, which houses the school. It is named for J. M. Price, founder of the religious education program at Southwestern and its first dean. Heacock succeeded Price as dean in 1956, and Terry followed Heacock in 1973. More than 300 former students, faculty, and religious educators attended the Diamond Jubilee celebration April 2-5. (Photo by Morris Abernathy, SWBTS photographer).

School of religious education celebrates 75th anniversary

More than two years of planning paid off for the school of religious education at Southwestern Seminary during the school's 75th anniversary homecoming April 2-4.

"We felt it went very well and beyond all our expectations," said professor of administration Alva Parks, chairman of the 75th anniversary steering committee. "It was so good to see all the alumni enjoying themselves and renewing old friendships," he said.

Parks said 550 people attended the anniversary reception and 340 registered for the annual banquet of the Southwestern Religious Education Association. SWBREA, which usually meets in August, held its meetings during the homecoming to honor Southwestern's impact on religious education.

Highlights of the week included the dedication of the Joe Davis Heacock Rotunda at J. M. Price Hall and the Ann Bradford Foyer at the Naylor Children's Center. Heacock is dean emeritus of the school of religious education and Bradford is professor of childhood education, emeritus. Both were on hand for the celebration.

A special hymn, "Words of the Master," was composed for the occasion by Claude Bass, professor of music theory and composition. A portrait of Dean Jack Terry was also unveiled at Price Hall as part of the festivities. Terry has served as dean since 1973.

The Student Religious Education Association made sure Southwestern students had a part in the homecoming as well. SREA purchased a sundial to mark the anniversary. It was placed with a small garden in front of Price Hall.

During his chapel address about the life of John Milburn Price, founder of Southwestern's school of religious education, Heacock called Price "the most uncommon man I've known."

"Dr. Price was an innovator," Heacock said. "With his insight, he could see the needs of religious educators of the future."

Was Judas a Christian?

(Continued from page 2)

vant role of the Messiah.

To me, the clearest evidence that Judas was not a Christian is seen in Matthew 26:21-25. Eleven of the apostles called Jesus "Lord" (vs. 22). Judas called him "Master" or "Rabbi" (vs. 25). Judas never called Jesus "Lord," only "Rabbi" (cf. Matt. 26:49, Rabbi).

Those who use Judas as evidence that one can be saved and then lost again miss the point. He never was saved in the first place.

Herschel H. Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Germans say immediate action needs to evangelize E. Europe

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists have been encouraged to launch an all-out effort to evangelize Eastern Europe and help keep the world's newest mission field from falling into the hands of Eastern religions and cults, a West German Baptist official said during a recent visit to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"East Germany and other eastern European countries are in a very devastated shape," said Hans Guderian, director of the church growth department of the West German Home Mission Board.

"We, as West Germans, are willing to help, and it is our responsibility to help. But the task before us is so big that we as 71,000 West German Baptists cannot do it alone. And if we do not do it, then Eastern religions and cults will."

Baptists from around the world must come together "to build a real church infrastructure for doing the task of spreading the Gospel in these countries," Guderian said.

He is one of 13 German Baptist leaders visiting Southern Baptist churches and agencies in four states to learn about church growth. The group visited Southwestern Seminary as guests of the school's World Mission and Evangelism Center.

Outreach is a new concept for East German Baptists, said Wolfram Hosche, a member of the visiting group who is pastor of a Baptist church in Sonneberg, East Germany.

"We can express ourselves freely now, openly, even in the newspapers," Hosche said. "We have all these possibilities, but we haven't had a chance to think about all of them yet; there are so many."

To provide support and fellowship, Guderian said, more than 100 partnerships between West and East German Baptist churches already have been initiated. In addition, many joint conferences, retreats and other programs are planned, including the first evangelistic tent revival in East Germany in decades this summer. Another possibility is the reunification of the East and West German

Missions Madness to take place at MSU

Missions Madness is a day of fun and fellowship for junior and senior high school students sponsored by the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union. It will take place on Saturday, April 28, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The day's activities will be held at the MSU band practice field. The top three teams competing in games will receive trophies. Also a Spirit Award will be presented. Bryan Robertson, former BSU summer missionary to Daytona, Fla., and Scott Valentine, former journeyman to Japan, will share their testimonies.

The Acts, Too, drama team will present a skit. Contemporary Christian music will be provided by Fishermen and Drawn Together, BSU singing groups. For further information contact the MSU-BSU at 323-5761. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 25.

Procrastination is my sin. It brings me naught but sorrow. I know that I should stop it. In fact, I will — tomorrow!

— Gloria Pitzer.

Baptist conventions.

Guderian named three ways Southern Baptists can help meet the needs of Baptists in Eastern Europe: prayer, travel to both countries to assess the situation for themselves, and financial support "to help raise the Baptist work in all Eastern Europe."

Short- and long-term American volunteers also are needed to help with church growth and evangelism, Hosche added. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board recently listed establishing churches in Eastern Europe as one of its top-10 strategic personnel requests.

While the Germans said they are challenged by the task ahead of them, they are taking time to enjoy the momentous changes in their homeland since borders were opened in November.

"We were very, very surprised and very happy," Hosche said of the historic changes that took place in his country. While he lives only two miles from the West German border, travel had been restricted for 40 years.

"We could see West Germany, but we couldn't go there," he said. "This is such a great freedom for us to travel there."

Guderian grew up in Berlin and witnessed both the construction and destruction of the wall. He took his family to the city shortly after the borders were opened to see the changes.

"It was such a wonderful feeling," he said. "People were going in and through the border. The soldiers were very friendly. It was a totally changed situation."

The German visitors said their trip to America has been both educational and enjoyable. "I am very impressed with how churches emphasize missions here and how they grow," said Werner Wolf, a lay leader at a Baptist church in Essen, West Germany.

Wolf was anxious to visit America under happier circumstances. His last visit came during World War II as a German prisoner of war at Camp Maxey near Paris, Texas. As he looks back at the experience, Wolf said, he is thankful for his good treatment in the United States, adding he believes God guided him and helped him survive the war.

Hosche said he was impressed by American methods of evangelism. "Things just don't happen by chance here, they are specifically planned," he explained.

Four spring senior adult enrichment days are set

Clarksdale Church; Winona; Calvary, Tupelo; and Lake Tiak O'Khata will be the locations, May 1, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for four remaining area enrichment day programs for senior adults. Theme for each day will be "Understanding the Pastor's Role in Ministering to Senior Adults."

Area I, Clarksdale, will be hosted by Clarksdale Church. Among the program participants will be Tim Cline, First Church, Days; Lucius Marion, Clarksdale; Jim Muston, Eudora; Hugh Plunkett and Clarksdale Senior Adult Choir. Reservations for lunch should be made by April 25 with Aaron Lewis, area coordinator, P. O. Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632. Cost for linen is \$6.00, check payable to Aaron Lewis.

Area II will meet with Calvary Church, Tupelo. Program personalities will include David Prevost, First, Pontotoc; Jim Phillips, Calvary, Tupelo; Charles Montgomery, Aberdeen; William P. Smith, III, Lee Association; Matt Buckles, Blue Mountain; Leonard Pursell, Rena Lara; Marvin Cox, New Albany, Wade Allen, Pontotoc; Billy Ray Nelson, Friendship, Pontotoc; Gayle Alexander, First, Tupelo; Harold Lollar, First, Booneville; and Charles Stubblefield, Tishomingo area coordinator.

Louisiana sets sacred harp sing

The first annual Louisiana State Sacred Harp Singing is set for May 4 and 5, on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. A special guest at this singing will be Hugh McGraw of Bremen, Ga., president of the Sacred Harp Publishing Company.

At singings, participants face off in a "hollow square" formation surrounding a central leader. Each song is practiced first by singing the fasola syllables before singing the words.

The Louisiana State Sacred Harp Singing will begin Friday evening at 6:30 and end on Saturday morning at 9:30. There is no admission charge.

Reservations should be made by April 15 to Jim Phillips, Calvary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1008, Tupelo, MS 38802. Make checks payable to Calvary Baptist Church. Cost for lunch is \$3.50.

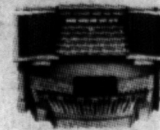
Area III is to be hosted by First, Winona. Program participants will include Mark Walker, Winona; JoAnn Ingold, Lexington; Leon Holly, Vaiden; Rick Munn and the Joyful music Makers of First, Grenada. Guy Reedy, Water Valley; Mattie Ray, Grenada, "Bows and Bonnets," First, Itta Bena; Art Leslie, Grenada; First Church "Saints Alive" Choir with Kenneth Forbes, director, of Greenville. M. C. Johnson, Clarksdale; Pat Gullledge and Barry Worrell, Grenada, are area coordinators. Make reservations by April 25 with Mrs. Jo Williams, First Baptist Church, Box 408, Winona 38967. Conference fee including the meal is \$5.00. Check payable to First Baptist Church, Winona.

Area IV meeting will be at Lake Tiak O'Khata. Reservations should be sent by April 25 with check for \$6.50 per person to W. L. Moore, Box 246, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Among those serving on this program are Bob Gray and the Senior Adult Choir of West Point and Senior Adult Choir, First, Louisville; Bill Stewart, Eupora; and area consultant, Levon Moore, Kosciusko.

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Don't expect quick revival, West Europe Baptists tell East

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — Western European Baptists have cautioned that Christians in the East should not necessarily expect spiritual revival to follow political freedom.

Economic matters will dominate European public consciousness in the next five or six years as Western Europe moves towards greater economic unity in 1992 and Eastern Europe rebuilds crippled economies, warned Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

"I have no simple answers to this. How do we react with the gospel to these things?" he asked.

Hoped-for revival did not come in Spain when political freedom expanded a decade ago, added Southern Baptist missionary Dennis Hale, missions director for Spanish Baptists.

"Instead of people turning to religious freedom, people turned to political activity that would help get them jobs and put food on the table," Hale said.

The comments came during a meeting of evangelism and missions leaders from 17 Baptist unions in

Eastern and Western Europe in late March at the Baptist Theological Seminary's Institute for Missions and Evangelism in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

It marked the first time Baptist evangelism and missions leaders from East and West have met since the political changes in Eastern Europe. Participants from the East included leaders from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Hungary.

Participants decided against trying to develop a unified strategy for evangelizing the continent, citing major cultural and ministry differences throughout the two regions. But in a final communique they stated, "The urgency of the task and rapidly changing events in Europe demand that in spite of the diversity of European Baptists, evangelism must retain a high priority on the agenda of every (Baptist) union."

Personal evangelism by individual Baptists offers the greatest promise for church growth on the continent, leaders agreed.

"The first reformation was when

Luther put the Bible into the hands of lay people. The second will be when ministry is put in the hands of lay people," said Romanian Baptist pastor Paul Negrut.

"Baptists have been in Spain 150 years and have 7,000 members," said Hale. "Jehovah's Witnesses have been in Spain 20 years and have more than 300,000 members in thousands of congregations." The difference, he explained, is that the Witnesses, despite their doctrinal errors, prosper because of their mobilized lay membership.

The Eastern European Baptists also talked of ministry amid repression.

Negrut, a minister of the 2,500-member Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania, told of being harassed by deposed communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's secret police. He was threatened with death if he persisted in a Bible training program for laymen, begun in 1978 with help from Southern Baptist missionary Earl Martin. The "School of the Prophets" program continued, however, and will be expanded this year.

Southern Baptist Convention is most racially inclusive

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is the most racially inclusive religious body in America, according to Emmanuel McCall, director of the black church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

McCall cited research conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary, the University of Chicago, and the United Methodist Church in making his claim.

The Southern Baptist Convention was once known as the "chaplaincy arm" of the Ku Klux Klan, McCall told Christianity Today. But today the denomination is home to over 1,500 predominantly black congregations. About 300 black students are enrolled in the church body's six seminaries, while black home and foreign missionaries within the convention total 380.

Devotional

Seeing life through resurrection eyes

By Paul Miller

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher) (John 20:16, NIV).

Mary Magdalene's eyes were clouded with tears. She had not been able to stop crying since her beloved Jesus had been nailed upon the cross. She was there at the tomb while it was still dark. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty! Mary ran for the disciples, crying all the way there and back to the garden. All alone she stood as Peter and John saw for themselves Jesus' body was gone. All alone she stood as the disciples rushed off to tell the others. While she cried, thinking Jesus' body had been stolen, Jesus spoke to her. She didn't look directly at him and thought he was a gardener. Then he called her by name, "Mary!"

At that moment her eyes were opened and she saw Jesus with Resurrected Eyes! No longer was she distraught with fear; she was once again in the presence of Jesus! Where there had been only darkness before her eyes, now her eyes were filled with the glorious light of our Lord. She was seeing life through Resurrection Eyes!

Seeing life through Resurrection Eyes means that we can see circumstances with a different type of vision. Life becomes different; defeat turns into victory because of the risen Lord! People look different through Resurrection Eyes. All people suddenly become important because we see them as God sees them. They are no longer important because of what they can do but because of who they are.

The great basketball legend, Pete Maravich, once sent Larry King, talk show host, a Bible that King received the day before Pete died. It said inside the Bible . . . "He will reveal the truth to you, Larry, because he lives! — Pistol Pete."

What clouds your eyes? See Jesus as he is — the Risen Lord — Ruler of Creation — Giver of Life! Be able to say with Pete Maravich and Mary Magdalene — "I have seen the Lord!"

Paul Miller is pastor, Mantee Church, Mantee



Miller

Preview day scheduled at Clarke College

Preview day will be held at Clarke College, on Tues., April 24 for high school juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about Clarke College.

Schedule of activities is as follows: 4-5 p.m., campus tours and displays in gym; 5-6 p.m., dinner in cafeteria; 6-7 p.m., financial aid workshop in science building; 7-8 p.m.; concert in Lott Fine Arts Building by Sheldon Gooch, a contemporary Christian singer who grew up in Detroit, Mich.

For reservations, call the Office of Admissions, Clarke College, 683-2061.

Bi-vocational meetings are scheduled in nine regions

A series of fellowship meetings for bi-vocational pastors and their wives will take place in each of nine regions in the state.

Breakfast or supper will be provided, depending on whether it is a morning or evening meeting.

Each meeting will have discussions concerning "The Minister's Family in the Single Staff Church," "Missions Development," and "The Ministry of Evangelism in the Single Staff Church."

Following is a listing of dates, places, times, and the name and phone number of the person to contact to make reservations (which are requested so the correct number of meals will be planned).

The first will be on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Clarke College, Newton. J.B. Costilow is the contact person at 683-2061.

The second will be May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Church, Yazoo City, with James Garner as contact person at 673-2232.

Other meetings will be May 19, 8:30 a.m. at Bond Church, Wiggins, with

Thursday, April 19, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



Billy Vaughan, who has been a festival leader for 10 years, stands with a group of recorders during the festival at First Church, Laurel. Vaughan recently retired from the Laurel church.

735 take part in 11 area keyboard festivals

In the 11 1990 Keyboard Festivals, there were 735 participants in grades one through 12. A total of 322 persons assisted as festival leaders, judges, group leaders, and assistants. There were participants from 287 Baptist churches, 180 non-Baptist churches, 73 associations, and 223 cities, towns, and communities.

The festivals took place at Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale; First Church, Jackson; Midway Church, Meridian; First Church, Gulfport; First Church, Hattiesburg; First Church, McComb; Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; First Church, Starkville; First Church, Grenada; First Church, Tupelo; and First Church, Laurel. These festivals are sponsored and coordinated by the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, L. Graham Smith, director, and Dot Pray, contract keyboard consultant.

Mississippi Baptist associations provide keyboard festivals for beginning students who are not yet ready to play from the simplified or standard hymnal. The total number of participants for the 1990 associational festivals was 277.



Amanda Preslar, age 11, participates in the basic organ portion of the Area 8 keyboard festival held at First Church, Hattiesburg.

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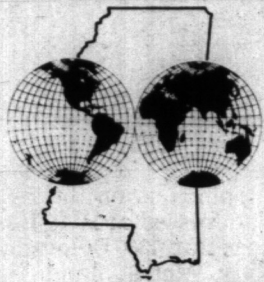
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Evangelism Report

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	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams			
Alcorn			
Attala			
Benton-Tippah			
Bolivar			
Calhoun	8	8	3
Carroll			
Chickasaw			
Choctaw			
Clarke			
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington	1	25	8
Franklin	15	11	11
George	4	10	6
Greene			
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	3	8	6
Holmes	2	30	6
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	4	36	11
Jasper			
Jeff Davis	2	10	7
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar			
Lauderdale	6	13	27
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon	4	140	24
Lee			
Leflore	2	6	6
Lincoln			
Lowndes			
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery			
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta			
Northwest	1	10	15
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha			
Panola	5	9	6
Pearl River	3	22	14
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc			
Prentiss			
Rankin	14	150	50
Scott			
Sharkey-Issaquena			
Simpson			
Smith			
Sunflower			
Tallahatchie			
Tishomingo			
Union			
Union Co.			
Walthall			
Warren			
Washington			
Wayne			
Webster			
Winston			
Yalobusha			
Yazoo			

Vestal visits state, says he owes debt to past, to future, to lost world

Daniel Vestal, announced candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, last week told about 100 Mississippi Baptists in Jackson that he owes a debt to the past, to the future, and to a lost world.

Vestal made three stops in Mississippi, one in Meridian for a continental breakfast, one in Hattiesburg for lunch, and one in Jackson for dinner.

Explaining his debt to the past, Vestal noted that he was saved in a Southern Baptist church, he was educated in Southern Baptist institutions, and Southern Baptist churches had nurtured him. To the future, Vestal said that he owes his children and the children of others a heritage of academic freedom and theological integrity.

Concerning a lost world, Vestal declared that his church could not do it all. He said, "It takes all of us."

The candidate said that the Southern Baptist Convention has lost its focus for missions. He declared that in 1979 the convention walked up to a moment in history as it moved

toward accomplishment of Bold Mission Thrust, then decided to turn aside and go in another direction. He noted that Southern Baptists have lost their trust in each other and that it has been destroyed by a consistent effort.

He declared that Southern Baptists have lost their viability. "Our genius is in our diversity," he said. He added that Southern Baptists are fiercely independent and "it is in our diversity that viability is so important."

Then he said that Southern Baptists are losing their freedom. He noted that Baptists were born out of protests against tyranny but that now a creedal test is required for participation. The greatest threat to freedom, he said, is character assassination.

He noted four goals — personal, political, institutional, and denominational. His personal goal, he said, is to be more like Jesus. The political goal is one of inclusiveness instead of exclusiveness. The institutional goal would be to seek out trustees who are servant oriented, agree with Baptist principles, and are competent. The denominational goal would be to discover the Southern Baptist purpose of world evangelization in cooperation.

Finally he noted that if elected he would name a blue ribbon committee to study the depoliticalization of the convention presidency.

Pure air is like money. It is only important to those who do not have it. — Dr. C. P. Brooke

At 20, he'd like to save the world, go down on history's pages; At 30, he'd just be satisfied to save part of his wages! — F. G. Kernan.

Religious liberty . . .

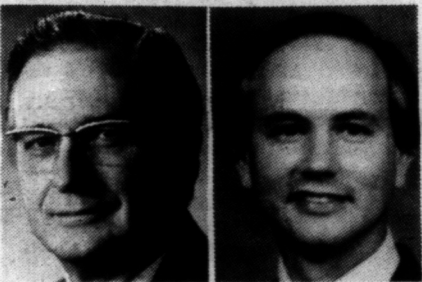
(Continued from page 3)
smaller, less representative body."

About a dozen of the council members — including McCall and broadcast journalist Bill Moyers — met May 22, 1989, to discuss formation of a broad-based support group for the BJC. McCall said he expects the council ultimately to consist of about 300 members.

Although Jimmy Allen of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of Baptists Committed to the SBC, and Baptists Committed leaders John F. Baugh of Houston and W. Winfred Moore of Waco are members of the council, McCall said "no organizational connection" exists between the RLC and Baptists Committed.

The council has its own bank account, and McCall said members will meet "once or twice a year."

Retreat planned by chaplains



Cothen

Cottingham

The Mississippi Chaplains Association has scheduled its spring retreat for May 4-5 at Gulfshore Assembly.

Grady Cothen and Ronnie Cottingham will lead the retreat. Cothen served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1944-46. He is president emeritus of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Cottingham is a full-time music evangelist living in Lycedale. He is the founder of Jus' Jesus Ministries, Inc.

The retreat will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and conclude Saturday noon. It is sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Richard Brogan, consultant.

Everyone is eagle-eyed to see another's faults and deformity. — Dryden.

Staff changes

Perry Robinson has recently resigned his position as minister of music at First Church, Ellisville.

Hillcrest Church, New Albany, has called Eric Barron, of Olive Branch, as minister of music and youth, effective March 25. A native of Brighton, Tenn., he is a graduate of Union University and has additional studies at Southern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Olive Branch.

Just for the Record

Blue Mountain College Chorale will present its annual spring concert, Tuesday, April 24, at 8 p.m., in the sanctuary of Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. The Chorale will sing Te Deum by John Rutter, an extended piece of worship music for the Anglican service. The piece is approximately eight minutes long and draws its text from the Book of Common Prayer. In addition, the Chorale will perform Five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams with baritone soloist Rickey Kelly of Tupelo. The text is drawn from spiritual poems by George Herbert. The Chorale is under the direction of David R. Gilmore, assistant professor of music. In his fourth year at Blue Mountain College, Gilmore holds his BA in music education from Louisiana Tech University; his MM in conducting and voice from Northeast Louisiana University; and is a candidate for the DMA in choral music at Arizona State University. He is currently vice president for the Mississippi chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. The Chorale is accompanied by Terry McRoberts, associate professor of music.

Oakdale Church, Hwy. 471, Brandon, will present Guy Hovis in concert on Sunday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

Hovis is known for his 12 years as a regular on the Lawrence Welk Show. A couple of recent highlights in his career include being the featured entertainer at the "First Lady's Luncheon" in Washington, D.C. honoring Nancy Reagan, and singing the title song for the Walt Disney film, "Benji, the Hunter."

For more information, call the church at 829-1360.

A singing will be held at Mt. Gilead Church, Blue Springs, Saturday, April 28, at 7 p.m., with the Witness Quartet from Pontotoc. Johnny McCullough is pastor. For more information, call 534-2323 or 534-3698.

Homecomings

Shady Grove Church, Magee: April 29; William Earl Greene, morning message and Joe Ratcliff, afternoon message; dinner on the grounds, horseshoes, washers, and volleyball; gospel singing at 2:30 by the Gospeltones; Donald R. Kleeb, pastor.

Goss Church, Columbia: April 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish served at noon; afternoon singing and concert following noon meal; Porter W. Buckley, Columbia, guest speaker; Sidney L. Buckley, minister of music, Washington Ave. Church, Greenville, S.C., singer; William T. Wright, pastor.

Harmony Church (Carroll): April 30-May 4: 7:30 p.m.; Larry Edwards, Mount Olive Church, Blackhawk, evangelist; Ken Gower, pastor.

Jordan takes semi-retirement

Robert (R. L.) Jordan is taking semi-retirement after being a pastor for 43 years. He was licensed and ordained by First Church, Louisville, when the late W. L. (Bill) Day was pastor. Jordan attended Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His first pastorates were Gum Branch and Union Ridge churches and his last church was Wake Forest at Sturgis. He taught Bible in the Starkville schools for many years.



Jordan

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan have two children, Robert Jordan Jr. of Meridian and Mrs. Jean Alley of Clinton.

Jordan is available for supply, interim, or small pastorate. He can be contacted at 500 W. Roane Ave., Eupora, MS 39744, or call 258-8607.

Clarke Panthers receive first national rating

The Clarke College Panthers baseball team received its first ever national ranking on April 3, when national junior college rankings were published.

The Panthers came in 16th in the nation on this date. More recently published polls show the Panthers' ranking to be 15th, with a current record of 24-9.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- April 23-24 Sharing the Joy of Team Ministry; Gulfshore Assembly; Noon, 23rd-Noon, 24th (CAPM)
- April 24 Senior Adult Choir Festival; FBC; Grenada; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CM)
- April 26-27 Associational WMU Officers Training; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 26th-12:30 p.m., 27th (WMU)
- April 27-28 Associational WMU Officers Training; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 27th-12:30 p.m., 28th (WMU)
- April 27-28 State Handbell Festival; Mississippi College; 7 p.m., 27th-2:30 p.m., 28th (CM)
- April 27-28 Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting; Calvary BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 27th-2:30 p.m., 28th (DBS)
- April 28 Lad/Crusader Day; Central Hills Retreat; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (BRO)
- Youth Speakers' Tournament; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 10 a.m.-Noon (DT)
- Youth Selection Tournament; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 1-3 p.m. (DT)

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Names in the news

Oliver C. Ladnier, pastor of First Church, Magee, will be honored with a reception for his 20 years of service, Sunday, April 22, 2-4 p.m. Also, there will be special recognition in the morning worship service.



Ladnier

A native of Pascagoula, Ladnier received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served on numerous state convention committees including secretary of the Executive Committee, approved worker for the Brotherhood Department, consultant for Christian Action Commission, and is now serving as vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees.

He and his wife, Patsy, have two daughters.



Bobby Butler (right) was licensed to the gospel ministry by Temple Church, Myrtle, March 18. He was presented his license by Griff Walker, pastor (left). Butler is available for supply or interim work and may be contacted at 988-2849.



Jeffery Brian (Jeff) Howell, 24, was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by his home church, First Church, Durant. Howell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Howell, is currently serving Beulah Church of Holmes Association as pastor. A graduate of Delta State University, he plans to attend seminary in the future. Pictured, from left, are Jerry Bishop, pastor of First Church, Durant, with Howell receiving his certificate of ordination.

Leon Young, was honored Monday, April 2, on his 25th anniversary as director of missions of Lauderdale Association. Recognition with "deep appreciation for outstanding and dedicated leadership" was cited, as a plaque was presented by layman Ronnie Massey, moderator of the association. The presentation was made at a "Here's Hope" simultaneous revival fellowship luncheon, held at First Church, Meridian, with the association's staff, pastors, and ministers present, and with revival teams from the churches as guests.

William Waddell, missionary associate to Uganda, was the speaker at Pleasant Dale Church, Thaxton, Wed. night, April 18. H. L. Barnes Jr. is pastor.

Sellers Home to host reunion during SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Sellers Baptist Home in New Orleans will host a reunion for its adoptive parents and children during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13.

Mary Dan Kuhnle, director of the maternity home and adoption center, said the reunion is planned for children and parents who have been brought together through the service but is open to all Southern Baptists attending the convention. Since 1948, Sellers Home has placed 2,500 children with adoptive parents.

"We hope our adoptive parents and adoptees will come back and bring us snapshots for our scrapbook and help us update our addresses," Kuhnle said.

The event also could be an opportunity to educate pastors about the ministry of Sellers Home, she said. Sellers is an agency of the SBC Home Mission Board, offering maternity home services and counseling for Southern Baptists nationwide.

The reunion will take place 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, during the free afternoon of the convention program. The home is located about two miles from the Superdome and is accessible by taxi.

Kuhnle has issued an appeal for adoptees and adoptive parents to write the home with their current addresses so some invitations may be mailed in advance. Mail should be addressed to Sellers Baptist Home, 2010 Peniston St., New Orleans, La. 70115.

Thursday, April 19, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

Concert to be presented at N.O. Seminary

A concert of sacred music will be presented May 1 at New Orleans according to an announcement from the seminary. The Seminary Chorus, the Concert Chorale of Mississippi College, directed by Richard Joiner; and the Concert Choir of Nicholls State University, directed by Kenneth Klaus along with members of the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra will present three Twentieth Century American Masterpieces. The concert will be directed by Leroy Yarbrough of the seminary faculty.

Included will be Symphony No. 3 (Camp Meeting) by Charles Ives, Symphony of Psalms by Igor Stravinsky, and Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein with Albinas Prizgintas as the boy soloist in the Chichester Psalms.

The hour-long concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited, and there will be no charge for admission. New Orleans Seminary is located at 3939 Gentilly Blvd.

The Home Mission Board was first called the Board of Domestic Missions, and its headquarters was located in Marion, Ala. Now Atlanta, is headquarters for the HMB.

Missionary news

Floy Smith, missionary associate to the Philippines, is on the field and may be addressed at P. O. Box 7506 DAPO Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines. A native of Mississippi, she was born in Piave and considers Hattiesburg her hometown.

Mark and Cecile Alexander, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field and may be addressed at Casilla 344. J. J. Paso 3066, 7600 Mar Del Plata, Argentina. He is a native of Norfolk Va., and she is the former Cecile Price of Corinth.

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Revival dates

Everett Church: April 22-27; Ricky Kennedy, Meadow Grove Church, Rankin County, evangelist; Lucky Easterling, leading music; W. A. McWilliams, pastor; Shepherds of Love to sing Sunday evening; services at 7 nightly.

Crossgates Church, Brandon: April 29-May 2; services, Sunday, 9:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Gene Williams, evangelist; Tommy Vinson, pastor.

New Hope Church, Gulfport (Gulf Coast): April 22-25; services, 7 p.m.; Wayne Van Horn, professor; New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Kenny and Angela Mann, New Orleans, music evangelists; Richard E. Wilson, pastor.

High Hill Church (Neshoba): April 22-26; Parkes Marler, Harpersville, preaching; Paul H. Leber, Sr., pastor.

Sand Hill Church, Ellisville (Jones): April 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Dale Walley, pastor, Sand Hill Church, evangelist; Jay Rustin, Sand Hill Church, music.

Cedar Grove Church, Columbia (Marion): April 27-29; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, S.S., 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds; D.T., 5 p.m., worship, 6 p.m.; Joel Haire, First Church, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Jim Walker, North Columbia, Columbia, music; LaRue Stephens, pastor.

DeKalb (Kemper): April 22-25; Dennis Smith, Central Grove Church, Aberdeen, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Richard Hill, pastor.

Diamondhead Church (Gulfcoast): April 22-26; services, Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; evenings, 7 p.m.; Wiley Abel, 38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music; Paul B. Oglesbee, Jr., pastor.

Mt. Zion Church (Leake): April 27-29; 7 nightly; Ronald Harson, pastor.

Duffee Church, Little Rock: April 22-27; services, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jim Hill, Columbia, evangelist; Mrs. Sherrell Hill, pianist; Gerald Simmons, Columbia, music; Steve Avera, pastor.

Lakeland Church, Mantachie (Itawamba): April 22-25; 7:30 p.m.; Howard Peak, Trinity Church, Fulton, evangelist; Danny Rushing, pastor.

Main Street Church, Goodman: April 22-25; services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; daily; Bobby Douglas, pastor, First Church, Columbus, evangelist; Gary Sheppard, band director, Holmes Community College, music; Ray Allen, pastor.

First Church, State Line (Wayne): April 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Doug White, First Church, Waynesboro, evangelist; Mrs. Annie Bumpus, First Church, State Line, music; Lavon Crane, pastor.

Indian Springs Church, Laurel (Jones): April 22-27; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dan Springfield, Springfield, Mo., evangelist; Sandy Springfield, special music; Tim Sanford, pastor.

First Church, Sardis (Panola): April 22-25, Tommy Snyder, Tate Street Church, Corinth, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, West Marks, music; Bruce Jolly, pastor.

Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville: April 22-25; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Hazel Church, evangelist; Paul Chaney, music evangelist; Michael Truhett, pastor.

Coldwater Church, Philadelphia (Neshoba): April 22-25; Bob Patty, pastor, Coldwater, evangelist; Claude Bronson, Philadelphia, music.

Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive: April 20-22; youth revival, led by team at Mississippi College; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, regular services; Dwayne Kelly, pastor.

Enon Church, Clay: April 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7:30 p.m., weekdays; Randle Poss, First Church, Maben, evangelist; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

Wheeler Grove Church (Alcorn): April 22-25; 7 nightly; Vaughn Denton, Memphis, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Revival results

Oral Church, (Lamar): April 1-6; Richard Miley, Richburg Church, Oak Grove, evangelist; Acher Smith, music; Sharon Ethridge, piano; B. S. Barrett, pastor; seven decisions made; four by letter.

Bunker Hill Church, Columbia (Marion): April 1-4; one profession of faith; seven rededications; two by letter; Steve Wilson, Dermott, Ark., preaching; John Wells, Columbia, music; B. Alfred Jones, interim pastor.

Sylvarena Church, Wesson (Copiah): April 1-4; one profession of faith; two additions by letter; David A. Kendrick, Taylorsville, preaching; Dale Heard, Wesson, music; Scott Palmer, pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs, (Copiah): April 1-5; 12 professions of faith; 38 rededications, and four by letter; D. J. Benson, Laurel, preaching; Christopher Young, music; Vann Windom, pastor.

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"When we heed God's call, he provides the resources"

By Wayne Campbell
Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

My voice cracked. My mouth seemed to be lined with cotton. My knees were knocking wildly, and my hands shook uncontrollably whenever I attempted to loosen my death-grip on the rostrum. What was I doing up here in front of this massive crowd of judges and fellow 4-H club members? Where had my brain been while my mouth was volunteering for this public speaking competition?

Ever been in a similar predicament? There is something frightening to most of us about standing up and speaking before a crowd. Normally, we just don't volunteer for such. Jeremiah was apparently a normal youth at the time the call of God came to him. God wanted a prophet, did he? There were plenty of older, more experienced persons who had the needed credentials. Jeremiah's youth and inexperience were two handy excuses



Campbell

LIFE AND WORK

that likely seemed legitimate to him. But Jeremiah was overlooking the fact that God knows each of us intimately. He knows our strengths, our weaknesses, our potential. Further, trite though it may sound, our availability counts for more than our ability. For, given the former, God can more than adequately provide the latter. And the very traits that we regard as liabilities can, when surrendered to God, become assets.

You may say, "But God was calling Jeremiah to be a prophet. God has never called me." Hasn't he? Peter says (1 Pet. 2:9b) that God "called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Then there's Paul's challenge in Eph. 4:1 to "walk worthy of the vocation to which you are called." Paul was not writing to a group of "professional" ministers, but to Christians in every walk of life. The "vocation" he refers to is that of being a follower of Christ. Every Christian has been called to be his servant, his witness. Each child of God is in a sense a

representative of Christ. That doesn't sound like an assignment one would volunteer for either, does it? But whether we're speaking of being a prophet in ancient Judah or being his servant in twentieth century America, the truth remains that God enables us to do what he calls us to do.

Before Jeremiah was born, God had consecrated him and set him apart for a specific purpose. That purpose would be realized as Jeremiah responded to God's call. God's call represents his invitation to live out his plan for one's life. There is no person whose life cannot find purpose in response to that call.

God speaks to Jeremiah of his purpose, then of his provisions for fulfilling that purpose. In response to Jeremiah's objections, God replies, "Everywhere I send you, you shall go; and all that I command you, you shall speak."

Not only did God have the result in mind, but he had the resources in hand. And when we place ourselves in his hand, his resources become ours for the fulfilling of his will.

What were the resources? The same ones he offers to you and me: his presence and his

power. "I am with you to deliver you," God promises. God won't deliver him from the assignment, but in the doing of it.

I heard of one pastor who, in attempting to encourage the student who was speaking on youth Sunday, said, "You need not be afraid of the people out there. They won't pay attention to anything you say, anyway." God's encouragement to Jeremiah was more positive. With his presence, he offers his power for confronting sin in the lives of the people and challenging them with God's message.

"Do not be afraid of them," God says. There is a natural tendency to fear confronting people with the claims of God. In fact, it is only through a keen sense of the presence of God and by relying on his power that such fears can be dealt with successfully.

We need never wonder if God can use us, although there may always be a sense of wonder that he would choose us. And when we do heed the call to serve him, we find he provides the resources for us and the results through us.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

Forgiveness from sin leads to fellowship with God

By Tommy Vinson
1 John 1:1-2:6

"Why do you keep preaching to us Christians about sin?" an angry church member said to her pastor. "After all, sin in the life of a Christian is different from sin in the life of an unsaved person."



Vinson

"Yes," replied the pastor, "it is different. It's much worse!" In our text, John was concerned that the Christian's lifestyle not be characterized by habitual sinful behavior (2:1). He writes with the purpose that "their joy might be full" (1:4). From John's perspective, it was totally inconsistent to think that a believer could have joy while living in sin.

John admits the possibility of a Christian's committing sin when he writes, "and if any man

UNIFORM

sin" (2:2). He was aware that the principle of sin was not eradicated when a person came to Christ. John presents three options which are open to the believer as he faces the fact of sin in his life.

I. The Christian can try to cover his sin.

How does he do this? First, by lying to one another. "We say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness" (vs. 6). This describes a person who wants others to think he is spiritual, so he engages in deceit in an effort to make a favorable impression. Vance Havner describes this kind of a person as "having more in the show window than in the warehouse."

Second, Christians can try to cover their sin by lying to themselves. "If we say we have no sin" (vs. 8) describes a self-deluded individual. One of the most tragic consequences of living

a life of deceit is that one may begin to believe it himself. If we could speak to this individual's spouse or children we would probably discover that the pious profession of sinlessness was just the pitiful, empty claim of a deceived believer.

The third step in this attempt to cover sin is when one attempts to lie to God (vs. 10). One may successfully keep the reality of his sin from others, and may even gain a measure of success in self-delusion; but one thing is certain, God knows what is really in our hearts.

II. The next option open to the believer is to confess his sins.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (vs. 9). The word "confess" carries the idea of "agreement." It means that we are willing to call our sin what God calls it. Too often we call it "timidity," but he calls it "lack of compassion." We call it "failure to pray," but he calls it "rotten unbelief." We call it "not being a good steward," but he calls it "robbing God." We call it "too tired to come to

church" while he calls it "need to repent." Amos put it this way in the Old Testament: "Can two walk together except they be agreed" (Amos 3:3). To walk with God in unbroken fellowship means that we must be transparently honest with him about our sin.

III. The third option to the Christian is to conquer sin.

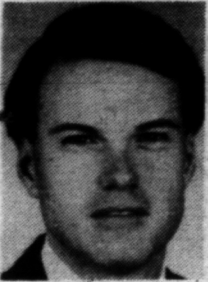
"My little children, these things write I unto you that you sin not" (2:1). John here is stating God's ideal for the believer. He recognizes that often we fail to obtain this ideal when he adds, "and if any man sin." He has provided help when we fall. The term "advocate" is a legal word, and speaks of our heavenly lawyer. He does not argue our innocence, or address extenuating circumstances to get us off the hook; but rather he offers to pay the just sentence which was rightfully ours to pay.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

"Our eternal high priest offers eternal salvation"

By N. Allan Moseley
Hebrews 4:14-6:20

"You can't expect it to last forever, no matter how much fun it was." My wife and I found ourselves saying those words to our children as we prepared to leave Orlando after a trip to Disney World.



Moseley

There are times when we experience something that brings so much happiness that we wish it could go on and on and never stop. The great news is that our salvation, which offers much more joy than an amusement park, never ends. We never have to leave it and go home, nor are we

required to continue to pay an admission price to stay. We have been saved, are being saved, and shall be saved forever (Rom. 5:10). Our inheritance in heaven is "incorruptible and undefiled," and it "fadeth not away" (1 Peter 1:4-5).

The writer of Hebrews makes the further claim that the salvation Jesus offers is eternal because his priestly work was eternal. If it were possible to lose the effect of Christ's priestly work, then his priesthood would not be superior to the priests of the old covenant who had to enter the temple regularly to offer sacrifices for sin (5:9-10; 6:19-20; 7:23-28, 9:11-15, 24-26). If someone seems to be saved and then denies Jesus, that is only evidence that they were never Christians. If we do not "hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast," then we have never become "partakers of Christ" (3:14; c.f. 1 John 2:19).

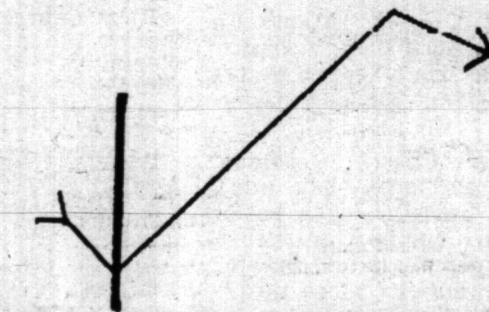
If these verses and others (e.g. John 10:27-29) are true (and they are), why do some people deny the eternal security of the believer?

BIBLE BOOK

Hebrews 6:4-6 is a passage often mentioned in connection with such a denial. However, rightly understood, these verses actually give support to the idea that real salvation is forever. Verses 4-5 describe the experience of becoming a Christian.

Though some interpret these phrases differently, the larger content of the passage addresses immature believers, not unbelievers. In verses 1-3, there is a list of elementary Christian doctrines that had been repeated excessively in the teaching of these Christians. The writer is encouraging them to graduate and promote out of doctrinal kindergarten. Verse 6 represents one method he used to convince them that they needed to do so. Each of these doctrines, in its own way, has to do with the initiation of the Christian life. "After all," to paraphrase the writer, "it is impossible for these experiences to be repeated in your lives. Why re-teach them if you cannot relive them? If one has become a Christian, it is impossible for him to become a Christian again ('renew them again unto repentance'). One cannot be born again again." In this view, "If they shall fall away" does not refer to apostasy but to the stubborn refusal to continue to grow toward maturity. In other words, if an immature Christian falls away from the expected progression of faith, there is no reason to re-teach how he may become a Christian, since it is impossible to go back and repeat that experience. The diagram below aids in visualizing what has happened among these Christians.

The bold vertical line represents the point of salvation. Life was changed at that stage. Some fell away at a later time, but they are still on



the right side of the bold line. It is impossible to go back and repeat their regeneration, so what they must do is move onward and upward, leaving elementary principles behind.

Remaining at the zero stage of growth and repeating one's salvation experience is like

repeating the crucifixion (vs. 6b) — it cannot be done. We can be saved just as many times as Jesus was crucified. By falling back to the initial stages of their faith and reliving their redemption, it was as if they were asking Jesus to climb back on the cross again. The writer of Hebrews wants them to know that that will never happen (9:12, 26, 28), so he urges them to grow instead of returning to re-experience their salvation.

In Hebrews, Jesus is directly called the "high priest" several times (2:17; 4:14, 15; 5:5, 10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11), and he is referred to as high priest indirectly in others (9:24-26; 13:11-12). Since he is an eternal and omnipotent high priest, we can rejoice that his salvation also is eternal. Some good things do last forever.

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C., formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport.

Dispute over dates of Dead Sea Scrolls may be settled soon by carbon dating

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — A dispute that has arisen concerning the dates of the Dead Sea Scrolls will be settled after carbon-dating tests, experts hope.

The scrolls, which contain some of the earliest biblical texts known to scholars, are believed to have been transcribed by the Essenes, a Jewish sect. Some, however, contend that based on certain phrases and possible references to Herod the Great, the scrolls were written by early

Christians.

At least 12 of the 799 scrolls will be tested by carbon-14 dating, said Magen Broshi, custodian of the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book, where some of the scrolls are kept.

Until recently, experts did not want the fragile papyrus-reed scrolls to be carbon tested because too much material had to be destroyed in the process, according to Broshi. But new carbon dating techniques require only a small amount of the parchment.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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\$145,000.00

Received For Easter As Of 4/16/90

\$80,689.38

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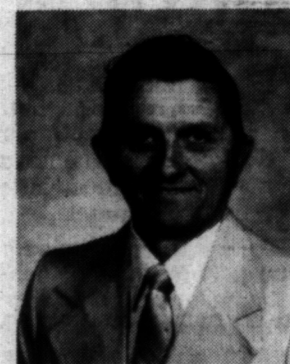


THANK YOU

1990 is off to a good start. Work groups from every area of the state from the Tennessee line to the Gulf Coast have turned out to help with maintenance, redecorating and landscaping projects on Baptist Children's Village facilities across Mississippi; and plans are in the making for further projects this spring and summer. Per Karl McGraw, Director of Properties at The Baptist Children's Village, "Groups such as these who finance and supply labor for 'work projects' afford us with a vital means of maintaining our facilities." If your group is interested in this type of ministry you may contact Karl McGraw at (601) 922-2242 or The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027.

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(To be continued)

Southern Baptists show support for home missions through mail

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The U.S. government has done its share this spring to flood the mail with income tax forms and census questionnaires. But Southern Baptists have done their share for the postal system, too.

Southern Baptists aren't sending money or answering questions. They are promising to pray specifically for eight Southern Baptist home missionaries.

Preprinted postcards were distributed in churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions observance March 4-11. The eight postcards were to be mailed one per day during the week of prayer.

Each postcard listed several specific prayer requests made by the eight home missionaries featured during the week.

The response has been overwhelming, according to the missionaries.

Anne and Randy Foster of Jackson, Wyo., have received enough postcards to fill 20 plastic grocery sacks.

"I have counted over 20,000, and I haven't even begun," Mrs. Foster said. "And this doesn't even count all the letters we've gotten."

She listed three groups of people from whom they especially were thankful to get responses — college students, missionaries' children, and elderly adults.

"I was impressed with the number of college students who sent cards," she said. "So many times they get left out of things like this. And the MKs (missionary kids). Maybe they understand the needs a little better than some other people."

The Fosters have seen results from the prayers of Southern Baptists. After the first cards arrived, their oldest son, Andy, faced some critical health problems.

"We can see God's hand in Andy's recovery," Mrs. Foster said. "We do appreciate the prayers."

Kenneth and Barbara Chadwick of Salt Lake City have received more

than 36,000 postcards.

"This has been real exciting for us," Mrs. Chadwick said. "Even our mailman, who has never indicated his church preference, has really been interested."

Because of the Chadwicks' location in a predominantly Mormon area, they received many letters from people interested in various aspects of work with Mormons, they said.

"We will try to respond to the ones who made specific requests," Mrs. Chadwick said. But due to the overwhelming response, they know they won't be able to answer every letter.

Brenda and Doug Lee of Grand Forks, N.D., asked Southern Baptists to pray that God would raise up workers for their church, especially Sunday School and missions organization leaders.

Two weeks after Southern Baptists prayed, Lee saw the answer to this prayer request.

"A young couple accepted Christ last night," he said. "I attribute that to prayer. They have a lot of potential. Last week (another) young couple joined the church, and they're very talented."

Perhaps the most direct answer to Lee's request came when a woman recently started attending the church. He has since learned that she taught Sunday School for years in her former church and that she is interested in beginning Woman's Missionary Union organizations in this church.

Lee is convinced the prayers of Southern Baptists work.

Timothy Park, coordinator of Korean ministries for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, has received more than 49,000 cards.

Park said he was very impressed by the response to his prayer requests. "Knowing that 9-year-olds and 12-year-olds are praying for me is important to me," he said.

The letters that especially touched Park were those from Korean young adults who were adopted by American families within the last two decades.

"They asked me to proclaim Christ to their natural parents," he said.

Don Ledbetter, director of evangelism and Brotherhood for the Nevada Baptist Convention, has received more than 40,000 cards.

"They're precious mail," Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter, like the other missionaries, has received many letters. Some of the letters were from people he knew long ago and has not heard from in years. Others were from people who know a non-Christian living in the Reno or Las Vegas area and want the non-Christian to be told about Christ.

Ledbetter is sharing this information with pastors in the area. He also received letters from people who offered words of encouragement and the assurance of prayer support.

One highlight for Ledbetter came from a woman who sent a postcard and then called him.

"A woman from Hattiesburg, Miss., called me at the first of the month to say she was coming out for a convention and wanted to know if there was anything she could do while she was here," Ledbetter said.

She ended up attending revival services with Ledbetter in his church, South Reno Baptist Church, while she was in town. Putting a face with the name on a postcard made the prayer support even more personal for him, he said.

Franklin Beam, church extension consultant in south Florida, has received more than 40,000 postcards.

"We knew a lot of people were praying for us," Beam said, "but to actually see it in a physical way, we had never had that privilege before."

Carol Reese, a Christian social minister at Chicago's Cook County Hospital, also has received thousands of cards.

For Reese, the postcards and letters have brought encouragement and support as well as tears and anguish. Several letters came from Southern Baptists who wanted to tell somebody



POSTCARD AVALANCHE — Franklin Beam, a Southern Baptist home missionary working in South Florida, was one of eight home missionaries featured during the recent Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Prayer postcards were distributed across the Southern Baptist Convention featuring these eight missionaries. Beam has received more than 40,000 postcards which each represent a Southern Baptist who has promised to pray specifically for his ministry and his family. Beam's 7-year-old son, Stephen, and 4-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, have enjoyed receiving all the mail. Each evening they use a map to pinpoint where the cards' senders live. (WMU photo by Don Hepburn)

who would understand about their experiences with AIDS. At least three writers wrote that they had never been able to tell their stories.

"Those are the stories that have brought tears to my eyes and torn my heart out and made me angry because the church is not responding to people," Reese said.

"All this will have been worth it if these stories can be told, and the church, particularly Southern Baptists, can move in a direction of being more merciful and gracious to folks whose families are affected by AIDS."

Debbie Scott, former home missionary and now a Mission Service Corps volunteer in Puerto Rico, has a unique appreciation for the prayer support indicated by the thousands of cards she has received.

Scott resigned the Southern Baptist

Home Mission Board as a career missionary Dec. 31, 1989, to become a volunteer working with new converts at Glenview Baptist Church in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Scott said that when the missionaries were chosen for the Week of Prayer observance, no one could have known this career change would even be on the horizon.

"I think that it was God's timing that I would be included," she said. "I need more prayers now than I needed when I was salaried. I don't know from day to day if all my funds are going to come in."

Even though Scott's prayer requests today might include some related to her new work, those listed on the card still reflect her desire for the people of Puerto Rico to know Christ as Savior.

Todd writes for WMU, SBC

South Africa missionary caught in violence

By Craig Bird

GA RANKUWA, Bophuthatswana (BP) — The crowd of angry youths couldn't believe Ron Lomax refused to let them commandeer his van when they surged around it.

Soldiers from the South African Defense Force couldn't believe he insisted on going back into an area where mobs were burning buildings, overturning cars, and hurling gasoline bombs at police.

Lomax couldn't believe he got tear-gassed.

A Southern Baptist missionary from Fredericktown, Mo., Lomax was caught in the wrong place March 7 when residents of the South African "homeland" of Bophuthatswana took to the streets to demand their country be reincorporated into South Africa. Bophuthatswana's independence is recognized only by South Africa.

About 50,000 people marched, mirroring similar protests in the other homelands of Ciskei, Venda, and Gazankulu. Lomax; his wife, Karen; and their children, Braden, age 4, Kaylan, 3; and Kelsey, six months, are the only white family living in their Ga Rankuwa neighborhood.

Aware of the possible historical significance of the protest, Lomax decided to videotape some of the action. But the demonstration turned violent and trapped him.

"Six or seven 'comrades' (youths aligned with the African National Congress in its fight against apartheid) surrounded my van and demanded I give it to them because a baby needed to be taken to the hospital," said Lomax.

"I refused to get out of the van or let them in, but I offered to drive the baby myself. There weren't enough of them to block the van, so they finally agreed to show me the way."

Two women with two babies who had been caught in a cloud of tear gas got into the van, and Lomax asked a man from the crowd to ride with him to show the way to the hospital. Every time they were stopped by other rioters or barricades of burning tires or overturned cars, the man explained the situation, assuring everyone that Lomax also was a "comrade."

After taking the women and babies to a clinic, Lomax declined to drive the man all the way home, but agreed to take him as close as he could enroute to his own home. That detour led

to a firsthand experience with tear gas.

A woman ran up to the van, begging Lomax to take a 10-year-old boy out of the violence. No one in the neighborhood knew the boy, and he couldn't find his way home. Lomax agreed; but before the woman could return with the boy, more tear gas canisters were fired into the area. A cloud enveloped Lomax and the van as he argued with another group of comrades, who insisted he go buy gasoline for them so they could make more bombs to battle the police.

"I'll think about it," Lomax said as the woman and boy crawled into the van and he drove off, squinting to see through the tear gas. He didn't think long, though, and returned home after getting the boy to safety.

The next problem facing Lomax: getting his son, Braden, home from school in Rosslyn, South Africa. He drove there on back roads but returned on the main highway, where South African troops informed him no one was allowed in or out of Bophuthatswana. "But I have a wife and baby in there," Lomax argued. The soldiers replied: "We aren't responsible then. It's your choice."

The route home was littered with more burning tires, wrecked automobiles, and telephone poles piled across the road, but Lomax made it home safely.

Later in the evening, when he learned from news reports that seven people had died in the rioting, the seriousness of it all finally hit Lomax.

"I really got scared then," he admitted. "I don't think I'll be so anxious to video something like that again."

Craig Bird writes for FMB.

The hotel guest was completely fed up with the whole system of tipping after one week of taking care of doormen, waiters, bell boys, hat-check girls, and such. Then came a knock on the door.

"Who is there?" called the guest. "It's a bell boy, sir. Telegram for you."

The tip-tortured guest had a crafty gleam in his eye. "Just slip it under the door," he ordered.

"I can't, sir," said the bell boy, without a moment's hesitation.

"And why not?" growled the guest. "Because, sir," explained the determined bell boy, "It's on a tray." — American Opinion

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